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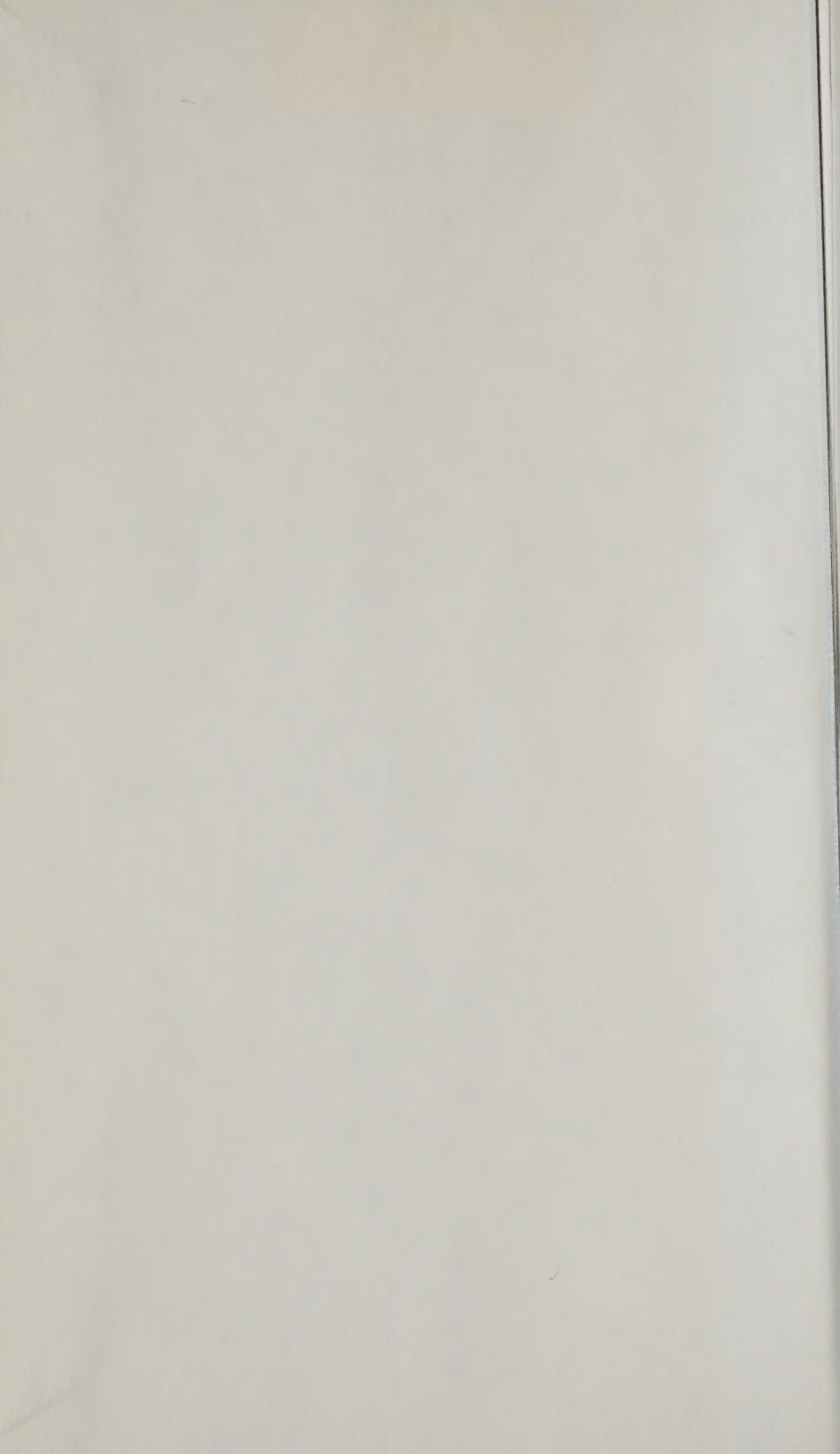
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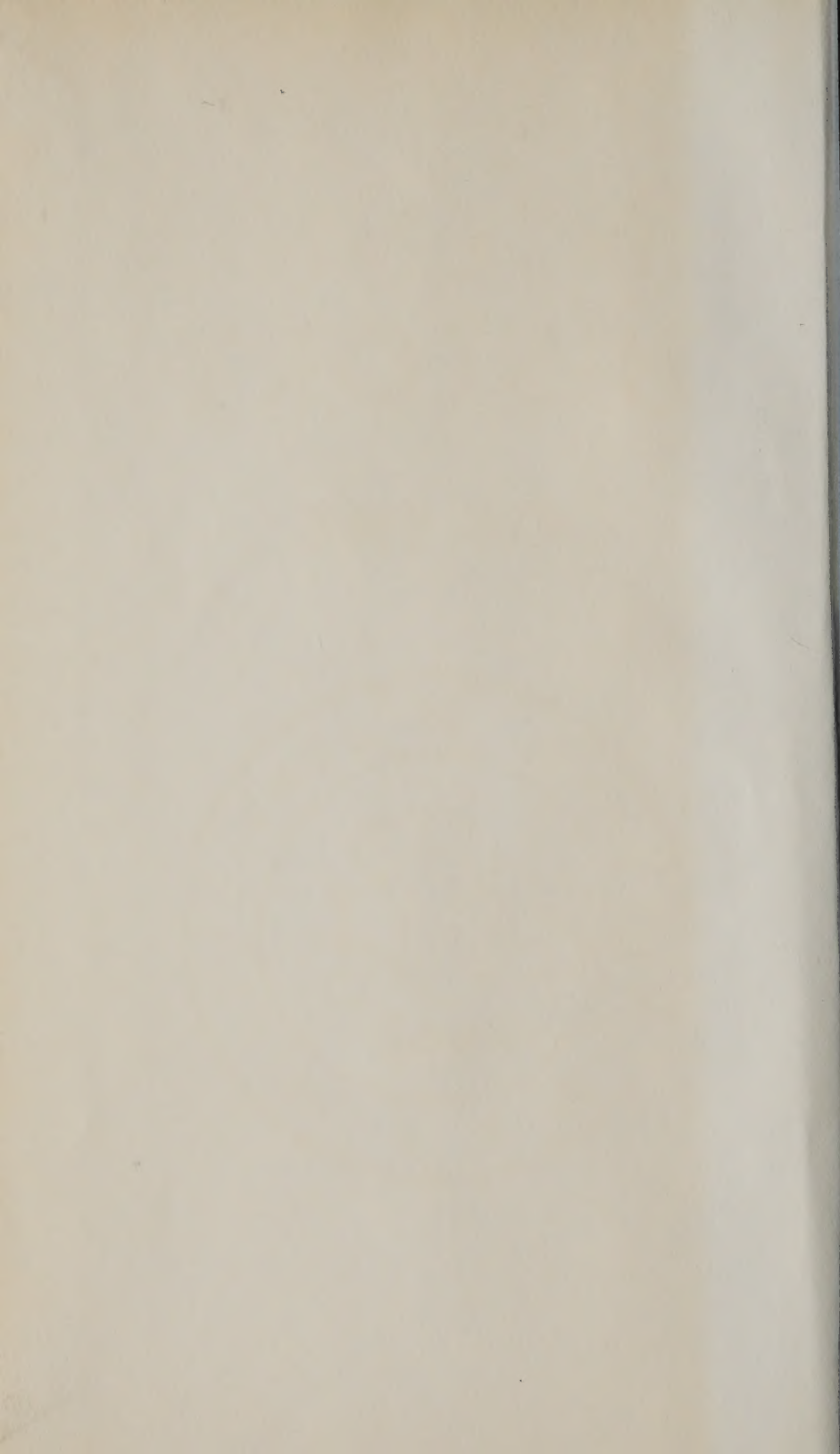


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# CENTENNIAL HISTORY

OF THE







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HISTORY  
OF THE  
VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE





*State Street—Looking South From Shady Avenue*



History <sup>c</sup>  
*of the*  
Village of Lowville

*By the Historical Committee  
of the  
Centennial Celebration of the Village*

JOS. W. SINGER, *Chairman*  
MOLLIE S. ROBERTS  
PERRY G. WILLIAMS  
CHARLOTTE MILLER  
H. NORTHAM HABERER  
FLORENCE ALM  
WILLIAM E. KILBURN  
VERA BUSH MACKENZIE  
WALTER KEEN  
MARJORIE HOUGH

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BOONVILLE, N. Y.

## Preface

LOWVILLE, county seat of Lewis County, did not become an incorporated village until June 29, 1854, when the vote upon the adoption of a village charter was 109 for and 33 against. Notice of application for a charter was published more than five years before, February 26, 1849, at which time about one square mile was surveyed by N. B. Sylvester.

The location of the village had been determined more than a half century before. In 1798 Daniel Kelley, native of Norwich, Conn., built a sawmill on the south side of the creek, just below the present bridge site. His first log hut, built the same year, stood against a huge boulder, adjacent and directly opposite the bridge, as it now stands.

The following year, September 22, 1799, a grist mill was completed and put into operation, with the aid of settlers from all the country round. Its stones were dressed from a boulder of gneiss rock by James Parker, well known mill-stone maker of Watertown. About a month later, the mill was timed and two bushels of wheat were ground well in seventeen minutes.

In 1803 John and Ozem Bush built a sawmill on Sulphur Spring creek. This they sold to Solomon King, who erected the first grist mill at that place. The lower mill in Lowville was erected about 1810 by Silas Stow.

However, it was the Kelley mill, the erection of an inn by Jonathan Rogers and a store by Fortunatus Eager that determined the location of the village, which sprung up mostly on the farm of Rogers, who cleared the site of its native growth of timber.

The first frame building in the village was the house of Captain Rogers and the second was Eager's store. The second inn was built around 1805 by Preserved Finch. It was first kept by Daniel Gould and afterward by Major Melancthon W. Welles, native of Stanford, Conn.

The first birth was that of Harriet, daughter of Ehud Stephens and afterward wife of Dr. James M. Sturdevant. The first male born was Samuel, son of Jonathan Rogers, June 21, 1800.

The first death of an adult was that of Aaron Hovey, a young unmarried man from Johnstown. He went out on a Sabbath morning to cut down a tree, which struck and killed him as it fell. He was the first person buried in the old graveyard, then a lonely spot in the woods upon the east road below the village.



## PREFACE

The village of Lowville early became a prominent point in the county, from its academy, the spirited efforts of its merchants and the location of several influential citizens within the first fifteen years of its settlement.

The first trial for a capital crime in the county was that of Rachel, a servant of I. W. Bostwick, for setting fire to her master's house. She was tried before Judge Platt, about 1821. As the damage had been slight, public sympathy was strong in behalf of the defendant, who was about eighteen years of age.

The defense was conducted by Micah Sterling and Russell Parish, and as the trial commenced the latter evinced an elastic buoyancy of spirit which appeared to be unwarranted by the occasion, until it appeared upon the reading of the indictment a second time, that the prosecuting attorney had accidentally omitted the word "inhabited" before the word "dwelling," and that the trial had reached such a stage that amendment was not admissable.

The prisoner, upon learning that she would not be hung, from abject terror evinced the most extravagant joy, which met with a sympathizing response in the hearts of many present. She was subsequently tried for arson of lower degree and died in state prison.

The first trustees of Lowville village were Joseph A. Willard, native of Hubbardtown, Vt., N. B. Sylvester, A. G. Dayan, S. B. Batcheller and George W. Fowler.

The first fire company was formed July 24, 1829. Stephen Leonard was chosen captain; Palmer Townsend, first lieutenant; S. W. Taylor, second lieutenant. A well was to be sunk in the central part of the village and five buckets were kept in readiness for immediate use. Later, a fire engine, the Eagle, was purchased. It afforded the only protection against fires during many years.

The union band was formed about 1826. It maintained existence and furnished music for several years. A saxhorn band was formed in the fall of 1857. It consisted of ten men.

In 1855 the village reported a population of 908. Five years later it was estimated at 1,200. It has ever been the most prosperous business point in the county, enjoying a large trade from the country around.

The bank of Lowville was formed in 1838, with a capital stock of \$100,000, which was subscribed by December 18 of that year. The first directors chosen were I. W. Bostwick, C. Dayan, A. W. Doig, W. J. Easton, M. M. Norton, L. S. Standring, L. Harding, C. Buck, T. Mills, Harrison Blodgett, John H. Allen, Seth Miller and Thomas Baker.

## PREFACE

Isaac W. Bostwick was chosen the president; A. W. Doig, vice-president; Kent Jarvis, cashier, and Dayan and Parish attorneys. Preliminary arrangements were completed, and the bank commenced operations on July 1, 1839.

The first school was taught by Miss Hannah Smith, in a little log school house near the lower mill. Samuel Slocum taught in 1804 and was one of the earliest male teachers in the town.

The charter for Lowville Academy was applied for March 4, 1808, and granted March 21. In 1807, Rev. Isaac Clinton of Southwick, Mass., began a classical school in the academic building, before the charter was procured.

Daniel Kelley was born at Norwich, Conn., November 27, 1755. He married Jemima Stow, the sister of Silas Stow of Middletown, Conn.

In 1797 Silas Stow was appointed agent for Nicholas Low, the owner of Township No. 11 (Lowville) in Oneida County, N. Y.

In May, 1798, Daniel Kelley wrote: "After travelling 250 miles . . . from Connecticut to No. 11 . . . Wednesday towards night arrived at No. 11, where we found brother Silas who has completed a log house 19' x 24' . . . and we're going to build a sawmill."

The land upon which the log house and sawmill were erected had been selected by Mr. Kelley in the fall of 1797 and on April 12, 1798, the first deed to an actual settler had been issued to him for Lot 37 of 250 acres for the consideration of \$650. On that same day Silas Stow became the owner of 4,165 acres for \$8,000. This is known as Stow's Square.

In 1799 a grist mill was built.

The first town meeting in Lowville was ordered held in the home of Silas Stow. Daniel Kelley was chosen supervisor.

Lewis County was set off from Oneida County by an Act of the Legislature March 28, 1805. Daniel Kelley was appointed the first judge of Lewis County, and the first session of the Court of Common Pleas was held at the inn of Chillers Doty in Martinsburg December 8, 1805.

This Court adopted the County Seal and drafted a system of rules and established the jail limits of the county.

Daniel Kelley served also as county treasurer in 1805; also other offices.

In 1800 the population of the Town of Lowville was 300. In 1814 it had increased to 1,604.

In 1810 began the exodus of the Kelley family to the Western Reserve, or New Connecticut, where Cleveland, Ohio, now stands.

## PREFACE

Generally this trip was accomplished by going by team to Sackets Harbor, lake boat to Black Rock or Buffalo and thence by boat to Cleveland after walking past Niagara.

On January 9, 1807, Stow gave a site for Lowville Academy. Building erected at a cost of \$2,000.

Judge Kelley was a Baptist. Judge Stow was an Episcopalian.

About 1801 the creed of the Methodist-Episcopal Church was explained. This led to the organization of a church and about 1805 the first house was erected in Lowville expressly for public worship.

Daniel Kelley built a good frame dwelling not long after the erection of his grist mill on the rising ground south of the creek and village. It was built about 1800. James T. Campbell built a porch on this house in the early 1890's.

The Village of Cleveland, Ohio, was incorporated December 23, 1814. Twelve votes were cast. Alfred Kelley, his son, was chosen first president unanimously 6-1815. Judge Kelley was chosen the second president on 3-19-1816.



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*The committee which prepared this history is indebted  
to the members of the various organizations listed  
herein, and to*

*Hurd Studio for the pictures*

*Ralph E. Bush for the map of the Village*

## VILLAGE SEAL

Prior to May 20, 1872, the Village used Blue sealing wax only to seal Village Documents.

On May 20, 1872, the Board of Trustees of the Village passed a resolution approving a seal for the Village. The seal contains the following words arranged about the outside circle of the seal, "VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE, N. Y." The word "seal" is at the base of the inner circle which also contains a Sheaf of Grain, a Plow, a Spade and a box marked D. G. for Dry Goods.



OFFICERS OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE  
1954

MAYOR  
REUBEN J. HERZIG

TRUSTEES  
LEON A. DAVIS                      ROBERT J. LYNG  
CHARLES F. GUEPE                THEODORE J. ROHR

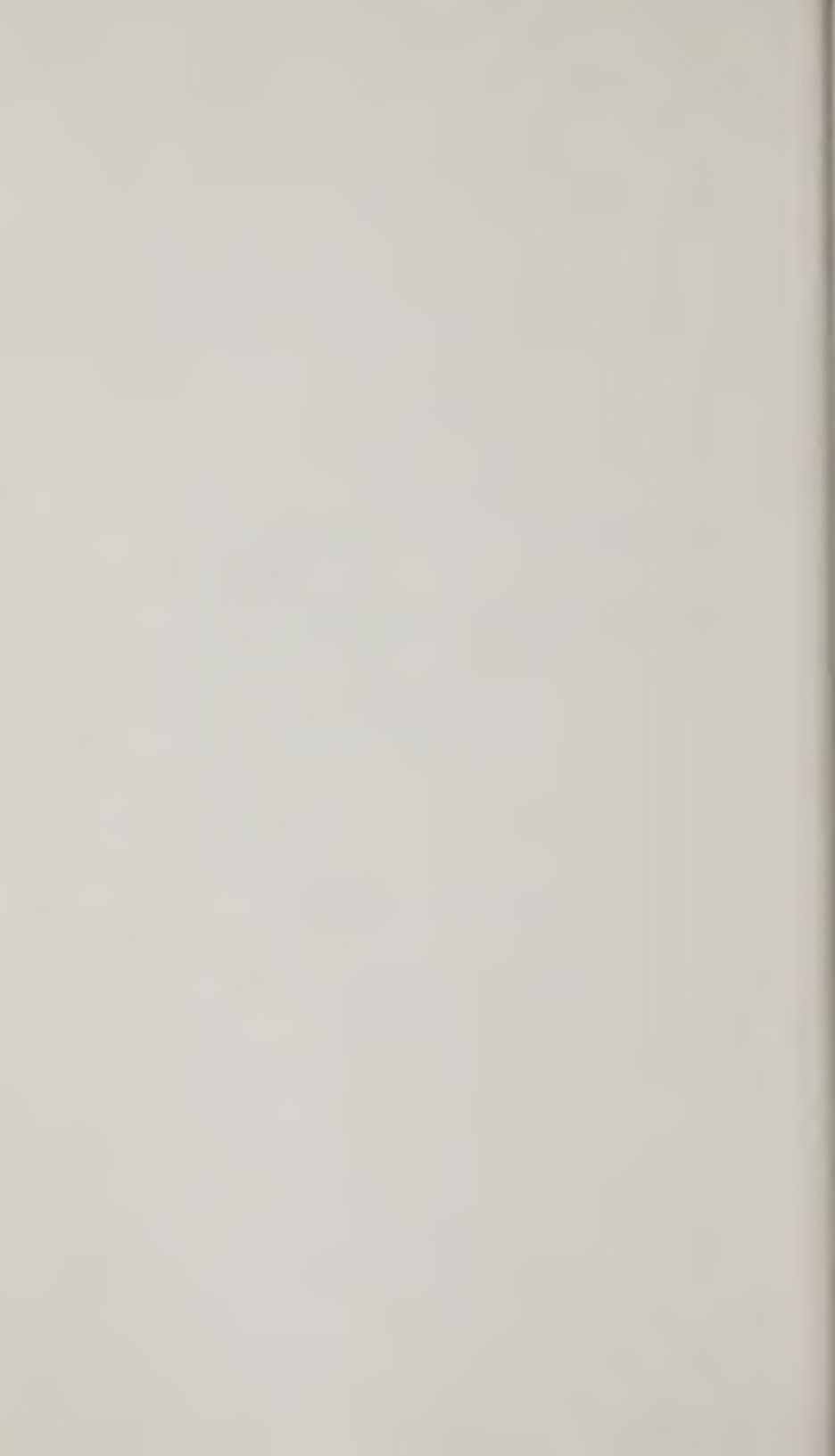
WATER COMMISSIONERS  
HENRY N. NORTZ                      PATRICK J. FOGARTY  
I. RAY GEER

CLERK AND TREASURER  
JOS. W. SINGER

CHIEF OF POLICE                      FIRE CHIEF  
ARTHUR J. LYNG                      EDWIN F. GUEPE

STREET SUPERINTENDENT  
CHARLES D. PETRIE

WATER SUPERINTENDENT  
H. NORTHAM HABERER



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*Kelley Homestead—Now Owned by A. N. Virkler*



## History of the Village of Lowville, New York 1854-1954

THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE, in the County of Lewis and State of New York, was incorporated in 1854, pursuant to the General Village Laws. It takes its name from the Town of Lowville, within which it is wholly situate, and which was named after Nicholas Low, an early owner. It is located in the north central part of the State of New York, about fifty miles north of the Mohawk Valley. It has been the county seat of the County of Lewis since March 10, 1864. It is served by the New York Central Railroad, the Lowville and Beaver River Railroad, and the Greyhound Bus Lines. Its area is 1,045.84 acres of land. Its population in 1950 was 3,671. Surrounding the village are lands used principally for dairy farming and lumbering. Its principal industries are milk shipping, cheese making, cheese storage, paper processing, wood processing and manufacturing.

\* \* \* \*

Pursuant to the laws of the State of New York, passed on December 7, 1847, and pursuant to a petition duly filed, an order was entered in the Lewis County Court of Sessions on the 28th day of February, 1854, by the Honorable Francis Seger, County Judge, Hamilton Cobleigh and Emory B. Holden, Justices of the Sessions, incorporating the Village of Lowville, provided the electors should assent thereto in the manner provided by law, etc.

On June 2, 1854, a notice of the meeting of the electors of said village was given, calling for a meeting to be held on June 29, 1854, from 10:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M., to determine by ballot whether the territory described in said petition and order should be an incorporated village as provided by law.

On June 29, 1854, the meeting or election was held, and the appointed inspectors of election, viz., Lewis Stephens, Jared House and C. M. Stephens, reported that there were 142 ballots cast, of which 109 were in favor of incorporation and 33 were in opposition thereto.

On July 10, 1854, County Judge Seger entered an order of regularity and conformity of said election.

On August 1, 1854, the following first officers were elected: Trustees, Joseph A. Willard, Albert G. Dayan, Snell B. Batcheller, Nathan-

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

iel B. Sylvester and George W. Fowler; Assessors, Charles M. Stevens, Charles P. Leonard and Jacob I. Cook; Clerk, George L. Brown, and Treasurer, Francis N. Willard. The trustees elected Joseph A. Willard its first president.

The main subjects of discussion of village officers then were water supply and fire protection, viz., Eagle Fire Co. No. 1 was instructed to report names of its officers and members; and on August 7, 1854, an agreement was made to take water from the springs of Hosea Lane.

On September 11, 1854, proposals were made for the construction of water reservoirs, without too much success.

Four proposals, respectively of \$800, \$700, \$600 and \$800, were made for supplying fire equipment and hose before the last one was carried in 1857, and the equipment bought on May 24, 1858.

The first reference in the minutes of the Village of Lowville to a meeting in the COURT HOUSE is on May 1, 1856.

On May 3, 1858, the first by-laws were passed. The contents of these by-laws are not of record, except that there were four chapters thereof.

On June 5, 1858, the original list of village firemen was recorded and approved and filed with the Board.

On February 1, 1860, the Board authorized the firemen to rent a fire house. However on November 17, 1860, Charles M. Stephens deeded a plot of land 15' x 45' to the village therefor.

On May 16, 1861, a water reservoir was authorized to be built at a cost of \$260.

On May 26, 1863, Cascade Ave. and Rural Ave. were laid out, on the application of Albert G. Dayan, through his lands, and the land of George D. Ruggles.

On February 3, 1864, Bostwick St. was ordered surveyed. This was completed on March 26, 1866.

On April 15, 1865, the village adopted a set of by-laws regulating public order, the use of streets and sidewalks, fires, cattle and the killing of animals.

On April 18, 1866, Rescue Fire Hose Company No. 2 by-laws were adopted and approved.

On April 23, 1866, there began a crusade for the construction and/or repair of wooden sidewalks throughout the village.

On June 4, 1866, there appeared the first need for sanitary sewage facilities.

On May 4, 1866, a survey was authorized and directed to be made on Shady Ave. from Main St. (State St.) to East State St. According

to the survey the Doig store was to be the south line of Shady Ave.; the north line to run as nearly parallel as possible thereto, and fifty-five feet therefrom.

On May 11, 1867, Trinity Ave. was laid out from State St. to East Road near Merrick Lymans, through "what is known as Mrs. Bostwick's lane."

On March 18, 1870, it was ordered that the following two propositions be submitted at a special election to be held on April 16, 1870: Shall the village raise \$5,000 for a site and engine house and (2) Shall the village raise \$600 for fire equipment. At the election held, both propositions were carried, the former by a vote of 68 to 63.

On April 19, 1870, bids were received for the following properties for a fire house:

William Howell, Shady Ave., 30 ft. by 50 ft.....	\$1,500.00
William Dewey, Shady Ave., 40 ft. by 47 ft.....	1,200.00
Mrs. Murray, Shady Ave., 40 ft. by 50 ft.....	1,100.00
Van Namee, State St., 30 ft. by 70 ft.....	1,200.00
G. M. Brooks, Dayan St., 32 ft. by 70 ft.....	1,200.00

The last offer was accepted. A deed was subsequently delivered to the village. Size 22' x 98' plus land in rear of old fire house.

On May 7, 1870, J. A. Voorhees was directed to prepare plans and specifications for a fire house.

On May 23, 1870, six bids were opened ranging from \$3,375 to \$3,800. C. W. Moore bid \$3,375 for construction of the fire house; James P. Campbell bid \$3,495 therefor. By a vote of three to two Campbell was awarded the construction, and he completed the fire house on December 28, 1870.

On April 29, 1871, a special election was held in the village on the proposition: "Shall the Village of Lowville become an incorporated village under the Act in Relation to Incorporated Villages passed by the State Legislature in April, 1870." The vote: ayes—105; nays—94; total votes 199.

On June 28, 1871, Rutson St., now Park Ave., was laid out north to Bostwick St. It was to be  $3\frac{1}{2}$  rods wide. On the same date Easton St. was established north from Dayan St. to Clinton St. It was to be 60 ft. wide to the angle and  $59\frac{1}{2}$  ft. from angle to Clinton St.

On March 23, 1872, the first speed ordinance was adopted in the village. It reads: "No person shall drive any horse, team, sleigh, wagon or other equipage at an immoderate rate of speed through any street in the corporate limits of the Village of Lowville, N. Y." It provided a penalty of from \$5 to \$30 for each offense.



## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

On April 29, 1875, pursuant to an Act of the Legislature, the president determined by lot that the term of office of E. G. Arthur, trustee, would be one year from March 16, 1875, and the terms of office of L. A. Bostwick and E. S. Batcheller would be two years from March 16, 1875. This marked the beginning of two-year terms for trustees.

On May 19, 1879, a petition was presented for the laying out of Cascade Ave. across Mill Creek from the bend in Valley St. to Stowe St.; said street to be three rods wide, but there is not any record of the Board ever having approved the same.

On January 17, 1880, Hiram Lanpher filed a claim against the village on account of claimed encroachment of the fire house on his adjoining lands. A survey thereof was made by Martin King and the claim rejected.

On November 6, 1880, a petition to sewer Trinity Ave. from the Sherwood house to the creek (between Trinity Church and Parish House) was received, and granted the following week.

On October 11, 1883, the village bought a LaFrance steam fire engine for \$300. Henry E. Turner was fire chief.

On August 18, 1884, Steamer Fire Engine Company members were listed. On the same date the Hook and Ladder members were also listed.

In 1885 was the first resolution regarding street lights. \$500 was appropriated for buying lamps for lighting the streets; also \$300 was appropriated for fire department members' uniforms.

In 1886 the immoderate speed ordinance heretofore referred to was re-adopted.

In 1887 \$200 was appropriated for a fire alarm; also \$200 for a heater for the steam engine.

On April 4, 1887, Hines, Moffatt & Co. of Watertown, N. Y., requested permission to organize a water company. Plans were requested of Moffatt, Hodgkins and Clark of Watertown, N. Y., together with a proposition for furnishing water for fire protection, together with hydrant rentals, within sixty days.

On May 9, 1887, John D. Moore applied for the exclusive electric franchise for five years.

July 7, 1887, John D. Moore was appointed fire chief upon the resignation of H. E. Turner.

On October 11, 1887, sidewalk grades on the west side of State Street were discussed. Martin King made a map thereof on May 28, 1888.

On October 17, 1887, permission was granted to John D. Moore to erect poles and electric lines.

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

On October 22, 1887, a special franchise was granted to John D. Moore for five years.

On this same date a 700 lb. fire bell was purchased from Clinton H. Menley Bell Co., Troy, N. Y., for \$191.97.

February 27, 1888, John D. Moore, as trustee for the Lowville Electric Light & Power Co., Ltd., proposed to contract with the village for street lighting with twenty 2,000 standard candle power arc lights, for \$1,250 per annum. The period of lighting was to be from dark to 12:00 P. M., except on moonlight nights, for a period of five years. All extra lights were to be at the rate of \$60 per year, and he agreed to install one light on the Black River Bank corner, and keep it lit, free of charge. The contract was amended to specifically state that lights had to be lit not less than 321 nights, nor more than 365 nights each year.

Thereafter the matter of entering into a contract with Mr. Moore was submitted to a vote of the people on March 20, 1888. By a vote of 161 in favor, and 151 against, the people approved such a proposition and contract by the Board of Trustees.

On September 22, 1888, sidewalk grades were established for:

1. The north side of Shady Ave. from the Black River Bank to Newton Stoddards.
2. For the east side of State Street from the McCulloch bank to the Brooks Hotel.

For the description of these grades see trustees' minutes of October 13, 1888, at which time the grade was established for the sidewalk on the south side of Shady Ave. from State Street to Brighams, too.

On March 19, 1889, a village election was held which:

1. Approved a light budget for \$1,500, and
2. Defeated a proposition to raise \$450 for a water system survey.

On June 4, 1889, the engine house was damaged by fire. The village was granted an adjustment for damages of \$853.

On June 25, 1889, the original fire limits of the village were established, and amended on November 23, 1889. Within these fire limits no wooden building was to be erected.

On May 12, 1890, permission was granted to James E. Bruce to move the old Baptist church through the streets of the village in two days, after getting the building into the street.

June 13, 1890, the village trustees noted that Bruce had left the building in the street, and directed the superintendent of streets to obtain all necessary help and move it off the street at Bruce's expense.

January 23, 1890, the Wise house on Dayan Street was authorized to be built. Originally this was planned as a frame house, but being

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

inside the fire limits plans were changed after the planned frame house permit was refused.

September 1, 1890, V. Lansing Waters proposed the laying out of Waters Ave. (Waters Terrace).

On March 4, 1891, the light budget was increased to \$1,600.

On June 29, 1891, complete sidewalk grades of Shady Ave. from State Street to the railroad were established.

On May 15, 1893, the Board of Trustees authorized the president of the village to appoint six water commissioners, two for 1-year, two for 2-year and two for 3-year terms.

On May 22, 1893, the president appointed as water commissioners: Rufus J. Richardson, Frank C. Doig, V. Lansing Waters, Charles P. Leonard, T. Miller Reed and William H. Harrison, to take charge of, erect, build and carry on any system of water works in the village.

On June 26, 1893, a proposition "Shall the Village borrow \$65,000 for a water works system?" was carried by a vote of 255 to 37. Subsequently Water Commissioners Doig and Reed resigned and the president appointed in their respective places F. Peter Kirley and E. S. K. Merrill.

On April 10, 1894, at the request of the water commissioners, at a special election a proposition for an additional \$33,000 for the water system was voted upon. The result of the voting was: taxpayers, 241 to 44 in favor; non-taxpayers, 125 to 3 in favor.

April 16, 1895, R. J. Easton applied for a permit to construct the R. J. Easton block on the west side of State Street (where the present clerk's office now is), said building to be four stories or 49 ft. high, 19½ ft. wide and 123 ft. deep or long. The Board granted the permit except as to encroachment on the street.

May 16, 1895, by a vote of 93 to 10, at a special election, the people favored raising \$5,000 for a storage reservoir for the water system.

December 24, 1896, the Board authorized the mayor to enter into an agreement with the Village of Clayton, N. Y., for the sale of its steamer fire engine for \$700.

February 28, 1898, it was voted at a special election to increase the number of trustees of the village to four in number.

July 26, 1898, the Board granted an electric franchise to Lafayette Wetmore, who was in the process of bringing electricity from Belfort, N. Y., to the village.

November 21, 1898, the village entered into a street lighting contract with Wetmore Electric Co. for street lighting—thirty-six 2,000 standard candle power lights at \$50 each.



## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

January 31, 1900, the original telephone easement was issued to the Black River Telephone Co.

January 21, 1902, permission was given to George Campbell of Pittsfield, Mass., to renumber the buildings of the village, at no cost to the village, on the basis of 33 ft. to a number.

January 5, 1903, Waters Terrace Street easement was offered to, and accepted by, the village.

October 29, 1903, a diagonal crosswalk from the southeast corner of the Presbyterian church to the northwest corner of the C. D. Moore house on State Street was ordered changed so as to cross Bostwick Street north and south, and then cross State Street east and west.

March 2, 1905, the village purchased a No. 8 Seagrave Trussed Fire Truck for \$875.

June 27, 1905, a proposition for the village to purchase six lots on the west portion of the Reed estate for a public park was defeated by a vote of 234 to 33.

September 26, 1905, a special franchise was granted to the Central New York Telephone and Telegraph Co of Utica, N. Y.

March 20, 1906, the proposition, "Shall \$500 be raised for the maintenance of a musical organization to be called the 'Lowville Band'?" was first carried, at a general election.

April 8, 1906, a hose wagon was bought for \$500.

March 21, 1907, the proposition, "Shall the village acquire the Wetmore Electric Co. system for supplying the village and its inhabitants with light, etc., at not to exceed \$85,000?" was submitted to the people. At a special election the people voted in favor of the same 234 to 34.

April 4, 1907, Wetmore refused this offer. The Board authorized condemnation proceedings to be commenced against the electric system, and authorized the payment of the expenses of a committee to Albany on the proposed transfer of the Wetmore Electric Co. assets to the Beaver Falls Light and Power Company. Subsequently, and on July 10, 1907, the mayor appointed a committee to confer with Lafayette Wetmore regarding the purchase of the assets of the Wetmore Electric Co. The committee reported to the Board on June 29, 1908, and on August 3, 1908. At its last report the committee was in favor of the continuance of condemnation proceedings, but the official record ends there.

July 2, 1907, at a special election, the people voted to annex to the village 332 acres of land on the south and east sides of the then present corporation boundaries.

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

August 2, 1909, the Board authorized the name of Valley Street to be changed to Rural Avenue.

March 19, 1912—On this date there began proceedings to institute road building in the Village of Lowville. The State notified the village that it would in the following year construct a State Road 16 ft. wide the entire length of State Street in the village, as part of Route 27 running from Utica to Clayton, N. Y. The State informed the village officials that if any wider street was desired the village would have to stand the cost thereof. Whereupon the Village Board decided to pave and curb State Street from South Campbell Street to Bostwick Street with bitulithic pavement, laid by Warren Bros. of Boston, Mass.

The record shows, from north to south, the following lengths and widths of pavement to be laid, including the 16 ft. to be done by the State Highway Department:

South Corporation Line to South Campbell St., 1,075 lineal feet—  
16 ft. wide

South Campbell St. to south side of Virkler building, 1,179 ft.—  
48 ft. wide

River St. to north end of Brahmer building, 1,285 ft.—56-69 ft.  
wide

Brahmer building to south end of Park, 1,375 ft.—40 ft. wide

South end of Park to Bostwick St., 315 ft.—28 ft. wide

Bostwick St. to north Corporation Line, 1,872 ft.—16 ft. wide

The people, at a village election, approved an expenditure of \$15,000 by borrowing to do this work.

On April 22, 1912, the Board approved the plan of the water commissioners to install meters for consumers.

On May 12, 1912, the State advised the village that the cost of the extra paving on State Street would be \$37,400. The abutting property owners were to stand two-thirds of this expense, or \$24,466.67, and the village was to stand \$12,466.67, according to action of the Board on May 21, 1912.

Similar action was taken with regard to paving Dayan Street, viz.,

350 ft.—39 ft. wide

2,550 ft.—28 ft. wide

running East and West from State Street to the Corporation Line, for which the State advised the extra cost to the village would be \$12,700, of which the village was to stand \$4,233.33, and the abutting property owners \$8,466.67, per action of the Village Board on July 24, 1912.

Thereafter street improvement bonds were sold for \$15,000, pay-

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

able over a period of fifteen years, with interest at  $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ , to Frederick S. Easton.

On January 18, 1915, similar action was taken with regard to paving Shady Ave. and East State Street jointly by the village and State, at a cost to the village of \$16,000. From the intersection of State Street with Shady Ave., and going easterly, the road was successively of the following widths:

300 ft. to Goutremout house .....	37	ft. wide
110 ft. to Preiser house .....	$34\frac{1}{2}$	ft. wide
890 ft. to New York Central Railroad tracks.....	32	ft. wide
1,600 ft. to East State St. ....	16	ft. wide

East State Street was to be 3,700 feet northerly to the Corporation Line 16 feet wide.

On March 2, 1919, a proposition was approved and subsequently voted providing for an appropriation of \$1,000 annually for the support of a Free Library.

On June 30, 1919, a resolution was passed that the Northern New York Utilities and the Black River Telephone Co. paint all their poles a bottle green.

On May 31, 1921, a permit was granted to Kimberly Construction Co. of Utica, N. Y., to erect the Lewis County Trust Company building within seven months. The size of the building was to be 42 ft. on State Street and 66 ft. on Dayan Street.

On December 8, 1921, the building code ordinance was adopted.

On February 5, 1923, the Board granted a request for a sewer on Trinity Ave. and Sharp St.

On March 18, 1924, the village defeated a proposition to raise \$10,000 for a motorized combination chemical and hose truck.

On that same date the village acknowledged itself indebted to the New York State Comptroller (common school fund) in the sum of \$23,000 on water bonds issued on June 16, 1895.

On September 30, 1925, the first village zoning ordinance was adopted.

On August 17, 1926, the Board granted to the water commissioners the right to audit and pay its bills, pursuant to Section 89, subdivision 2 of the Village Law.

On November 1, 1926, the village passed a resolution authorizing curb sockets and poles for flags.

On May 3, 1927, the village purchased a Sanford combination fire truck for \$3,875.

On November 2, 1927, the Finn garage permit was issued.

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

On December 6, 1927, the Village Board rejected an application for Sunday movies.

On November 7, 1927, the Village President became its Mayor by operation of law, according to village records.

On March 20, 1928, a petition was granted for the construction of the sewer on Trinity Ave. from East State Street to the Creek.

On April 2, 1928, the offices of village clerk and village treasurer were consolidated into one.

Thereafter, upon petition, Waters Terrace, Easton Street, Elm Street and Park Ave. were paved. The total cost was \$34,600, of which the village's share was one-half and the abutting property owners' share was one-half.

On July 11, 1929, the McCulloch property was purchased for providing a parking area for \$9,000.

In 1931 the hook and ladder truck was purchased.

On May 3, 1932, the Board authorized a contract with Henry W. Taylor, engineer, for a comprehensive sewer system plans and specifications.

On May 3, 1932, the office of police justice was created.

On July 1, 1932, the Board authorized the purchase of a sewer outlet into Mill Creek from Charles Rittis.

On July 1, 1932, the Board authorized the commencement of the construction of a permanent sanitary sewer system to partially relieve the unemployment situation, and *accepted* \$10,000 water funds provided therefor.

On September 2, 1932, sewer system regulations were promulgated.

On October 18, 1932, the Board agreed to provide land for the John Bacon & Co. factory.

On January 18, 1933, Davenport Place was dedicated as a street.

On March 7, 1933, bank holiday scrip fund was established.

On November 21, 1933, the Board authorized the construction of water reservoir No. 2 on Shaver Hill.

In 1935 the McCulloch or White Lodge house was razed.

In 1937 part of the McCulloch or White Lodge property was sold to the United States for the postoffice.

In 1938 the Parkway just north of the postoffice was dedicated as a public street.

On December 13, 1938, construction contract for the sanitary sewage treatment plant was let to W. H. Rich & Sons for \$32,539. The plant was completed on November 21, 1939, at a cost of \$39,339.28.



## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

Construction was under the Public Works Administration which paid \$16,966.75.

The first year of construction of the sanitary sewer system was done exclusively at the expense of the Village of Lowville. In 1933 under the Federal Emergency Works Division—successively under C. W. A., T. E. R. A. and W. P. A.—the construction of the sanitary sewer system continued until the winter of 1942-43. During this time the village constructed 15.0425 miles of sanitary sewer, including 373 manholes and 704 connection outlets, at an average cost of 1.396 per foot. The total village expense, exclusive of federal payments, was \$110,897.75.

In June, 1939, the village purchased the Barber lot on the Carthage road for a village dumping ground.

In October, 1941, following the flood, the village purchased the Patterson Pond property at Crystaldale for a supplemental water supply.

On March 17, 1942, the village passed the sanitary sewer ordinance.

In 1945 the village authorized plans for post-war construction of:

- (1) sewers, (2) streets, (3) water line.

On April 16, 1946, the first zoning committee was appointed.

On May 7, 1946, the Youth Recreation project was first instituted.

On June 3, 1947, parking meter installation was authorized.

On August 8, 1947, 73 additional acres along Utica Blvd. were annexed to the village.

On November 8, 1948, the municipal garage on Forest Ave. was authorized at a cost of \$37,849.49.

On November 8, 1948, the sanitary sewer lines were extended to the newly annexed lands along Utica Blvd.

In 1951 Bostwick Street was rebuilt at a cost of \$21,020.

In 1953 the fire house was remodeled and reconstructed at a cost of \$37,140.51.

On December 15, 1953, the Board of Trustees extended old age protection to all eligible employees of the village, not covered by New York State Retirement, under the Federal Social Security Laws.

## PRESIDENTS AND MAYORS

1. Joseph A. Willard ..... 1854
2. Nathaniel B. Sylvester..... 1855-57
3. John Doig ..... 1858-59
4. John O'Donnell ..... 1860-61
5. K. Collins Kellogg..... 1862-63

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

6.	Charles D. Adams .....	1864-65
7.	Charles H. Curtis .....	1866-67
8.	George M. Brooks .....	1868-69
9.	John Pfister .....	1870-71
10.	Hiram C. Lanpher .....	1872-73
11.	Ansel Foster .....	1874-75
12.	Anson M. Searl .....	1875
13.	Amasa S. Stoddard .....	1876
14.	Horace Bush .....	1877-78
15.	Amasa S. Stoddard .....	1879-82
16.	Ladette A. Bostwick .....	1883
17.	Rutson Rea .....	1884
18.	Nicholas Boshart .....	1885-86
19.	Louis A. Scott .....	1887
20.	William Lennox .....	1888-89
21.	S. Brown Richardson .....	1890-95
22.	Eugene Arthur .....	1896-97
23.	Frederick Crane .....	1898-99
24.	John E. Haberer .....	1900-02
25.	William Oliver, Jr. ....	1903
26.	Edward E. Williams .....	1904-05
27.	Melville W. VanAmber .....	1906-07
28.	Howard C. Bingham .....	1908-12
29.	Waite J. Stoddard .....	1913-14
30.	Morgan Stoddard .....	1915-19
31.	James Nefsey .....	1920-21
32.	Charles H. Arthur .....	1922-23
33.	Constant W. Nohle .....	1924
34.	Fay B. Pfister .....	1925-26
35.	H. Northam Haberer ( <i>First Mayor</i> ) .....	1927-34
36.	David S. Roberts .....	1935-36
37.	Ernest W. Curtis .....	1937-44
38.	Clarence A. Schlieder .....	1945-50
39.	Reuben J. Herzig ( <i>Incumbent</i> ) .....	1951-54

## CLERKS

1.	George L. Brown .....	1854
2.	Joseph C. Easton .....	1855-56
3.	Wm. W. Doig .....	1857-58
4.	Sherman Phillips .....	1859
5.	J. P. Visscher .....	1860-61

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

6. George Case .....1862
  7. C. Fay Millard.....1863
  8. M. J. Murray.....1864
  9. Rufus Rogers .....1865
  10. Charles L. Easton.....1866
  11. E. R. Adams.....1867
  12. Warren Scott .....1868
  13. George Sherwood .....1869
  14. William W. Dewey.....1870
  15. J. H. Bowdish .....1871
  16. W. Worth Dewey.....1872-77
  17. Fred C. Schraub.....1878-92
  18. Wm. H. Eggleston.....1893-97
  19. L. Charles Davenport.....1898-1921
  20. Ladette A. Bostwick.....1922-27
- In 1928 the offices of clerk and treasurer were consolidated

## TREASURERS

1. Francis N. Willard .....1854
2. Edward H. Bush .....1855-56
3. Calvin Lewis .....1857-64
4. Edward H. Bush .....1865
5. John Day .....1866-67
6. Edward H. Bush.....1868-77
7. Ladette A. Bostwick.....1878
8. A. Marcellus Lanpher.....1879-1890
9. Edwin J. Arthur.....1891-94
10. Warren R. Fitch.....1895-97
11. Oliver P. Hedden.....1898
12. Frederick Stoddard .....1899-1900
13. C. Dix Mitchell.....1901-02
14. Clayton C. Owens.....1903-12
15. J. Yale Moore.....1913-15
16. J. Fred Kohler.....1915
17. J. Yale Moore.....1915-27

## CLERKS AND TREASURERS

1. Edward C. Owens .....1928
2. Miller B. Moran.....1929-34
3. Jos. W. Singer (*Incumbent*).....1934-54



*Lowville Municipal Building*

## The Village Water System

V. LANSING WATERS, Frank C. Doig, Rufus J. Richardson, William H. Morrison, Charles P. Leonard, and T. Miller Reed were appointed by the President and Board of Trustees of the village as water commissioners of the Village of Lowville on May 25, 1893. Mr. R. J. Richardson was appointed president; T. Miller Reed was elected secretary; V. L. Waters was elected treasurer; C. P. Leonard was elected chairman of the executive committee, and he appointed Mr. Frank Doig and Mr. V. Lansing Waters to act with him.

On January 5, 1894, Mr. Whittlesey presented a map of survey from the spring in Watson for water line to Lowville and the secretary was directed to prepare proper papers to obtain a right or option to the right to excavate, lay down or construct a proper pipe line according to the directions of said Board across the land of the various persons along the line or proposed route or any variation thereof that may be hereafter made from the springs on lot Nos. 292 and 279 or thereabouts on Watson's West Triangle to and into the Village of Lowville and for the right to enter therefor and dig cut, lay and construct said pipe line. All persons to enter thereupon to relay and repair the same and also for the purpose of acquiring title to sufficient lands to fully own and control said springs and said secretary is also authorized to obtain proper searches of the County Clerk of Lewis County of the title to said lands and also to prepare proper releases of all mortgage effecting said rights of way and also for the purpose of settling for any and all damages occasioned by the same or by reason of taking said water from said spring.

On June 26, 1893, the Board of Water Commissioners requested the Board of Trustees to call a public meeting of the taxpayers of the village on the question of raising the sum of \$65,000 or as much thereof as may be necessary for the water debt or expenses incurred in the erection and construction of the water works as a water works system prepared for the Village of Lowville as provided in Section 21, Chapter 181 of the Laws of 1875, etc.

On March 21, 1894, the Board of Water Commissioners requested the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lowville to call a special meeting of the voters and taxpayers on the question of taxation for an additional assessment of \$33,000.

On May 2, 1894, Mr. D. M. Green proposed to act as chief engineer, furnish plans and specifications and see that the work is progressing



## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

satisfactorily on request until the system was completed for a sum not to exceed \$1,000 including expenses. Mr. Whittlesey said he would act as first assistant engineer under Mr. Green, aid in drawing the plans, specifications, maps, contracts, etc., and make all necessary surveys and be on the works in person from the beginning to the completion of the system, furnish his own horse and buggy and pay all personal expenses for \$500. In case of sickness he should receive \$5 per day for the time actually spent. Mr. Whittlesey presented map and survey of pipe line and his expenses. Said proposition was accepted and carried.

It was moved and carried that Sidney A. Snell be employed as second assistant engineer by the day.

The plans and specifications, etc., of the water system and proposals were signed, to be advertised in the Journal & Republican. Proposals to be accompanied by certified check or draft, \$300, \$500 and \$1,000, as liquidated damages to be forfeited to the village for failure to execute a contract as proposed. Proposals to be received on or before June 5, 1894, for all the work and labor necessary for the laying of the pipe, castings, lead and jute, a distance of about seventeen miles required to construct the water works system for the Village of Lowville, New York.

On May 24, 1894, specifications, plans and maps adopted. Sidney A. Snell employed as second assistant engineer at \$3 a day, ten hours a day, pay his own expenses including horse and buggy. All rod men, axe men and other assistants to be paid not to exceed \$1.50 a day for ten hours. They to furnish their own tools and furnish their own board and keep. To be paid on Saturday night each week on the certificate of the engineer as to their labor and time.

On May 29, 1894, the Board accepted the bid of the National Foundry and Pipe Works, Ltd., of Scottdale, Penna., for cast iron pipe at \$19.70 per ton of 4" to 6" cast iron pipe, and \$40 a ton for all special castings, f.o.b. Lowville. The Board decided to buy Ludlow hydrants.

On June 1, 1894, the Board voted for and signed \$50,000 construction water works bonds,  $3\frac{1}{2}\%$  semi-annual interest payments, to be due May 1, 1924, with the privilege of paying any \$5,000 or multiple thereof on November 1 of each year to the Comptroller of the State of New York, in trust for the Common School Fund.

On June 8, 1894, Thomas G. Banford of Utica was engaged as pipe inspector under Mr. Whittlesey at a salary of \$60 a month and railroad fare commencing June 11, 1894.

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

On June 20, 1894, Frank B. Townen of St. Johnsville was engaged as third assistant engineer at \$75 per month.

On June 29, 1894, Bahr and Stein of New York City awarded contract for forty tons of pure pig lead at \$3.37 per cwt., f.o.b. Lowville; J. M. Green of Rochester awarded contract for plain jute at .505c and tarred jute at .480c, f.o.b. Lowville.

On July 7, 1894, Ludlow hydrant bid award was revoked and contract authorized to buy Michigan standard compression hydrants and Matthews patent frost case and Eddy valve.

On July 14, 1894, the Board voted for and signed \$25,000 construction water works bonds, 3½% semi-annual interest payments, to be due May 1, 1924, to the Comptroller of the State of New York, in trust for the Common School Fund.

On August 1, 1894, F. Peter Kirley was elected Secretary of the Board to fill vacancy caused by the resignation of T. Miller Reed as a member of the Board.

On August 6, ordered that a description be made of the lands, streams of water and the title and interest therein intended to be taken or acquired by the Board for constructing and improving the water works system and that said description be attached and filed with the survey map herein in the Lewis County Clerk's office. Further, that V. Lansing Waters, the treasurer of the Board, be directed to purchase and take title by deed of the twenty acres of land occupied by Charles Collins and to pay therefor the sum of \$10 an acre.

On September 14, 1894, the Board directed acquisition by deed from Charles T. Shaw of 13.07 acres in Watson for \$130.76.

On September 20, 1894, plans and specifications of Prof. Green for a reservoir adopted.

On September 27, 1894, original schedule of water rates and conditions were adopted.

December 12, 1894, the Board borrowed \$10,000 additional from the Black River National Bank of Lowville payable on or before May 1, 1895, 6%.

On February 4, 1895, the Board authorized the purchase by property owners of private meters, same to be subject to the control of the Board of Water Commissioners.

Walter Whittlesey was requested and directed to complete and furnish to the Board a complete map of the water works system with appropriate measurements and a complete map and specifications of the reservoir on Shaver Hill.

On June 6, 1895, the Board authorized and executed \$23,000

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

worth of bonds to the Comptroller of the State of New York, in trust for the Common School Fund, to be paid on or before May 1, 1924, interest payable semi-annually at  $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ .

On June 15, 1895, the Board awarded to Edward Goutremout a contract to build reservoir No. 1 (Proposal No. 2) for \$4,950.

On June 26, 1895, the Board authorized the payment of \$300 to B. Frank Patten for good and sufficient deed of 2.61 acres for reservoir on Shaver's Hill.

March 13, 1896: Whereas, it was estimated that the construction of the water pipe line and system would take not to exceed 100 days; and

Whereas, it took from the summer of 1894 to the fall of 1895 to complete the work, a resolution was passed to pay Walter Whittlesey \$250 extra compensation as first assistant engineer.

September 25, 1896: Resolved that the water rates to consumers of water outside the village corporation and also outside the land conveyed for pipe line shall be one and one-half times the regular rate subject to the rules of the Board, but that the rates to consumers of water to parties who conveyed land to the Village of Lowville for the purpose of a pipe line for said water system, as long as the title to the premises remains in them, shall be the same as in the corporate limits of the Village of Lowville, and under same rules.

On April 5, 1897, Horace Bush was elected to the Board of Water Commissioners.

On July 7, 1897, the Board authorized a committee to acquire title to the land on the north branch, the water of which rises and flows from the spring owned by the Village of Lowville, bought of Charles Shaw in the Town of Watson. The John Hitchcock lot, a strip of land so acquired to be of sufficient width to excavate for a channel or lay water pipes and to fully protect the water from cattle, horses and leaves.

On August 11, 1897, the Board authorized the superintendent to lay a cast iron pipe line from the present reservoir at the intake to the north branch across the Hitchcock land, a distance of 1,000 feet to bring the north branch into the present pipe line.

On September 10, 1897, an inspection was made of the north branch extension of 1,000 feet, the dam on the north branch, pipes laid five feet deep. This water source increases the water supply about 500,000 gallons daily. System pronounced complete.

On October 13, 1897, the Board inspected the repairs to reservoir No. 1 necessitated by the frost cracking the wall. About 225 feet of the slope wall was taken down to the depth of three feet and filled with

pounded stone. The northwest sides of the slope wall were plastered with Rosendale and Portland cement. 253 barrels of water lime and cement used and 81 loads of sand. Capacity 2,000,000 gallons.

March 3, 1898, due to change in laws the fiscal year ended February 28, 1898, instead of April 30, 1898. Commissioners reduced from six to three. Water funds transferred to village treasury. New Board composed of V. Lansing Waters, F. Peter Kirley, and Charles P. Leonard.

November 30, 1898, there were 550 water consumers.

On April 29, 1899, Charles D. Moore appointed water commissioner.

In 1900, James T. Campbell succeeded Kirley as water commissioner. 586 water consumers.

In 1902, Charles P. Leonard succeeded Moore as water commissioner.

In 1904, L. S. Miller succeeded V. Lansing Waters (V. L. Waters had succeeded Leonard in 1904). 670 water consumers.

In 1905, Peter McGovern succeeded Campbell as water commissioner.

D. I. Jones was superintendent at \$600 a year.

On September 19, 1911, inspected new intake house at springs and watersheds on lot No. 280, 266 and five acres on lot No. 251. Board agreed to purchase lot No. 280—107 acres for \$300; 34 acres on lot No. 281 for \$50.

"The Board visited the source of the Half-moon spring on lot No. 302, this we find is a splendid spring with a large volume of water but lies fifty feet lower than the intake house. At some future time this spring may be found to be desirable for additional supply of water; these springs mentioned cover all the available water supply in this section.

"During the past two years our superintendent has set out 5,000 white pine, obtained from the state, on the land owned by us surrounding the intake house and watershed. We feel that this will prove to be a wise investment."

September 22, 1911, bonded indebtedness still \$60,000. Lot 266 purchased for \$262.50.

On April 15, 1912, all State Street property owners were notified that they must renew service pipes before the new pavement is put in if such pipes have been in service five years or over.

"Owing to the excessive waste of water the Board find it necessary to change from the present system of supplying water to a meter system.

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

All consumers are to be notified to install a meter by July 1, 1912. The Board to furnish the meters, the owners to install the same in a place easy of access, protect it from frost. The property owner to be held responsible for any damage due to his neglect.

"It has been necessary to take this action on account of the great waste of water and for the reason that our mains are not large enough to supply the water used and still have enough for proper fire protection."

Rules and regulations and rates promulgated (same as present bill with the exception) "no charge for metered water shall be less than \$2.50 semi-annually an allowance of 1,100 cu. ft. or 8,250 gallons."

April 13, 1914, John D. Dence appointed water commissioner.

March 1, 1915, 862 water consumers. Number of connections, 908. Fire hydrants, 110. Indebtedness, \$53,000. Pipe footage: 10", 58,620; 8", 9,317; 6", 34,674; 4", 3,760.

"Our records show other and perhaps greater changes in the past twenty years, for instance, of the first six water commissioners who worked so ably in developing the plant only two are living. Turning back the pages of our book to July, 1895, I find that of the first 100 names of those who paid their water rentals only 48 of this number are now living in the town, 8 have moved away and 44 have joined the silent majority, 'Whose places know them no more.'"

August 22, 1922, purchased 75 acres on lot No. 250 Watson, G. H. Gould for \$250.

May 3, 1923, purchased lot No. 252—96 acres and lot No. 276—86 acres for \$450.

April 4, 1924, bonded debt \$17,000. Time extended one year with interest increased to 4%.

April 28, 1925, engaged N. R. Hewitt to work for Board.

April 28, 1925, the Board voted to pay up the balance of our bonded indebtedness to the State Comptroller, viz., \$17,382.50, and reported as follows:

"We have investigated carefully and find that water takers are using about 100 gallons per day per capita and this is fully double the amount that should be used. To show you how the meter system has worked in other towns, we give you below an investigation by Mr. George I. Bailey, superintendent, Bureau of Water, Albany, N. Y. From statistics compiled from 137 cities in the United States it appears that the average consumption of water, per consumer, is 137 gallons per day, where the services are not metered, but where 50% of the services are metered the daily consumption per consumer drops to



## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

62 gallons, while where the percentage of services metered is above 50% the daily consumption per person drops below 40 gallons, in some cases as low as 29 gallons daily.

"We submit the above proposition rules to govern the water system, also a new scale of meter rates, which will materially reduce the expense to the water users and we will still receive enough income to pay our interest, running expenses and annually reduce our debt. We trust the above will meet with your approval and be returned to us promptly so that we may get it before the people within a short time."

June 15, 1927, to November 1, 1927, purchased Class D pipe, Class E thickness, from Charles Millar & Sons for \$45.75 per net ton, f.o.b. Lowville; pig lead at  $8\frac{1}{4}$ c per pound; jute at 9c per pound. Built valve house on east side of Black River.

Contracted with Merritt, Chapman and Scott Corp., New York City, for laying pipe under river and covering new pipes with stone for \$3,700. This pipe was leaded on the bank of the river and drawn across. Permit obtained from State Department of Public Works, Albany, to lay pipe across river.

Contracted with R. J. Gordon to dig and cover trench therefor at \$5.50 per rod. Flexible joint, or known as ward joint, pipe for use under the river bed was purchased at \$70.75 per net ton, f.o.b. Lowville. Cost of pipe \$9,908.33; total cost, \$18,800.03.

Acquired Lyndecker land on east bank of river at cost of \$250.

July 10, 1933, B. T. Hunt appointed water commissioner to fill unexpired term of L. S. Miller, deceased.

November 21, 1933, Board applied to C. W. A. for an allowance of \$20,000 with which to construct a second reservoir on land north of our present reservoir on the Number Three Road (Shaver Hill).

April 9, 1934, land purchased for second reservoir for \$697.50.

April 16, 1934, construction of new reservoir authorized.

May 20, 1935, contract for gunniting both new and old reservoir authorized.

November 14, 1935, work on relining the old reservoir and construction of the new reservoir was completed and the contract made with H. N. Haberer for installing stairway in the new control house thereof.

The old relined reservoir now has a capacity of, according to estimates, 1,800,000 gallons and the new reservoir  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons.

During the year 16,000 yds. of crushed stone was used, together with plenty of reinforcing wire. These were capped by a double coat or lining of cement gunnited thereon. Work done by the Cement Gun-

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

nite Company, Allentown, Penna. The following year the land around both reservoirs was graded and seeded. The unskilled labor on both reservoirs was done with the assistance of the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration, Board paying 25% of the cost of this unskilled labor.

April 1, 1936, H. N. Haberer appointed water commissioner to succeed Peter McGovern; Jos. W. Singer appointed clerk of the Board.

April 7, 1937, the Board authorized the purchase of pump house station lands from the heirs of Mrs. John Kloster located on East State Street, to be erected under supervision of Fuller & McClintock, engineers, New York City. Pump house completed in the following year.

August 19, 1941, Board authorized expenditure of \$10,000 to improve water supply by cutting in the springs and the streams on the R. D. Patterson property at Crystal Dale. The Board purchased the Patterson premises. Construction of pump house and improvement of dam and connecting booster pipe line to main line at the southwestern end of pond effected before snowfall together with chlorination thereof.

May 6, 1942, Henry N. Nortz appointed water commissioner.

In 1944 the Board of Water Commissioners purchased the Peake property (53.72 acres) on the Number Four Road for a possible future water supply base.

In 1945 the Board of Water Commissioners had a set of plans prepared for a new pipe line from its springs to the village.

In 1947 the Board of Water Commissioners purchased the Ross property of fifty acres for possible future water supply. The present pipe line crosses this property.

In 1949 the Board of Water Commissioners purchased part of the Hitchcock place from LaMourey of eighteen acres for better access to watershed properties.

In 1950 the Board of Water Commissioners purchased of Vernon Wilder 71.06 acres for possible future water supply.

As of April 1, 1954, the entire water works system represents a capital outlay of \$261,858.40.

Walter R. Galloway was appointed water commissioner on April 4, 1950.

Patrick J. Fogarty was appointed water commissioner on October 19, 1950. I. Ray Geer was appointed water commissioner on August 14, 1953.

## The Lowville Baptist Church

THE ORGANIZATION of the Lowville Baptist Church was completed December 18, 1824. Passing over the years 1824 to 1860 because this former history of Lewis County has been written by Franklin B. Hough, we find that Rev. James M. Ferris was pastor in 1860. Two other pastors, Rev. S. F. Livermore and Rev. S. W. Culver, served up to July 1, 1871, but little is said of their work.

On August 1, 1871, Rev. David R. Watson became pastor. The membership at that time was 68 resident and 15 non-resident members. Rev. Watson remained five years as pastor and received 79 new members before his resignation was received.

Rev. Thomas Bickford was called to become pastor but only remained two years.

On September 1, 1878, Rev. Frank Knapp became pastor. He was a young man just from school and was ordained here. Thirteen new members were received. The church at South Harrisburg was organized. Rev. Knapp was held in high regard. He closed his pastorate January 1, 1884.

On May 1, 1884, Rev. Delevan D. Dean became pastor. Rev. Dean was a remarkable personality, loved not only by his Church people, but by the entire community. When he came to Lowville the church numbered 111 members. When he left there were 235 members, all united in love and work for the Master. \*A new house of worship was built in 1890 at a cost of \$14,000 and in addition \$2,500 was expended to rebuild the parsonage. Rev. Dean passed away October 20, 1906. On August 21, 1921, fifteen years later, the church was filled with people who had loved him, and a beautiful bronze tablet in his memory was unveiled. The church building erected under the Rev. Dean is the present structure used for worship and contains this bronze tablet.

In December, 1906, Lester G. Simon, a student at Colgate, came to supply. He was well received and became pastor upon graduation, and was ordained here. After four and a half years of service he resigned.

Rev. J. Morris Evans became pastor January 1, 1912. Rev. Evans was a brilliant speaker and for five years spoke to large audiences.

Rev. Elmer E. Dresser was called as pastor just as the John H. McCombe Tabernacle Campaign was concluding. The church received 117 new members within the next few months. Rev. Dresser resigned July 3, 1922, having received 154 new members during his pastorate.

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

In March, 1923, Rev. Stewart J. Veach became pastor. He had a good pastorate for seven years.

Rev. Benjamin D. Profio followed and remained for ten years. A good work was accomplished, the church being redecorated and a new furnace installed.

On September 4, 1940, Rev. William W. Sawin became pastor and is still serving the church. Under his leadership the church has been strengthened spiritually and financially. A good spirit of unity prevails. Rev. Sawin's pastorate, with the exception of Rev. Dean's pastorate, has been the longest in the history of the church.

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\* The frame church was moved to present site of Louis Bush & Sons feed mill on or about May 15, 1890.

HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE



*Lowville Baptist Church*



*Lowville Methodist Church*



## The Methodist Church of Lowville

THE FIRST Methodist religious services were held in 1798 at the Landing schoolhouse near Lowville.

In 1805 Datus Ensign purchased six acres of land west of Lowville leading to West Martinsburg. A frame house was constructed. This was the first building built especially for religious services in Lowville, and so used until 1823.

On July 25, 1822, the incorporation of the Society was effected.

On February 1, 1823, a piece of land was purchased from Charles and Permelia Bush and deeded to the trustees of the Methodist-Episcopal Church of Lowville. That is the site of the present church.

The church parsonage was built in 1838. An addition was added in 1874.

Just forty years after the brick church was built it was replaced by the present church at a cost of over \$8,000. This church was dedicated February 13, 1863.

In 1915, under the leadership of Dr. Albert Loucks, an addition was built on the church for suitable assembly and Sunday School rooms, at a cost of \$12,200. At the dedication of the new addition Dr. Loucks, a native son who had returned as a pastor for three years, realized a dream of his youth. The building stands as a memorial to a great man.

In 1921 Rev. Arthur Moody came as the pastor, and under his able leadership the Sunday School was reorganized into a Departmentalized church school. The week-day religious school was started under his leadership, and is today doing such fine work. A vacation church school was held for the first time under his pastorate.

In the year 1924 the auditorium and church school rooms were redecorated at a cost of \$9,995, or more than the church cost when built.

Such was the cooperation and enthusiasm under the leadership of Mr. Moody that at the church board meeting, when the plan for the repairs was discussed, \$4,225 was pledged then and there.

On May 16, 1929, during a terrific wind storm the high spire with its golden dome, which beckoned so brightly to those living in the county, blew down. The repairs from the effects of this wind storm cost \$2,258, and for a much lower spire.

The church today has a membership of 567. Now, as ever, it assumes its share of World Service giving.

Many great leaders labored faithfully for the church and commu-

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

nity through the years. As great leaders have lain down the mantle of responsibility, so, by the grace of God, there has always been someone ready to take up the mantle and assume the responsibility. Thus may it ever be that this church, together with all others, will ever stand a mighty power for God in Lowville.

The present pastor is the Reverend Thomas Williams.

## Church of the Nazarene

AFTER an earlier attempt to situate a Church of the Nazarene in Lowville had been unsuccessful, the Rev. W. H. Hodgins held a series of meetings here in June of 1925. At the close of the meetings on June 30th, the present organization was founded, and the Rev. C. L. Cleaves was called as pastor.

The society was incorporated as the First Church of the Nazarene in Lowville on January 11, 1926. The present place of worship was purchased in June and dedicated July 25, 1926. Parsonage property adjoining the church was purchased during the pastorate of the Rev. W. S. MacPherson, Sr.

Pastors having served the church are as follows:

Rev. C. L. Cleaves.....	1925-1930
Rev. S. C. Seamans.....	1930-1933
Rev. Vangie Seamans Rogers.....	1933-1937
Rev. F. K. Smith.....	1937-1939
Rev. W. S. MacPherson, Sr.....	1939-1945
Rev. Marion J. Foster.....	1945-1947
Rev. H. W. Brown.....	1947-1949

Serving the church as its present pastor is the Rev. Geo. J. Douglas.

HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE



*Lowville Presbyterian Church*



*Lowville Nazarene Church*

## The Presbyterian Church

IN ORDER TO OBTAIN a true conception of the founding of the church, which is now called the First Presbyterian Church of Lowville, it is necessary for us to consider some of the important events which transpired in the town and village of Lowville during the twenty-five years prior to the organization of this church. First we must know of the deed of land by Nicholas Low to Silas Stow, a tract about two and a half miles square in the central part of the town, and which has since been known as Stow's Square. To this undeveloped spot came from New England sturdy men and women to settle this land and build their future homes. With the guidance of a missionary from Connecticut, the Rev. Ira Hart, the following persons organized the Congregational Church of Lowville on Stow's Square, December 4, 1803, and assented to the Confession of Faith as now used by the Presbyterian Church:

Benjamin Hillman and wife	Daniel Wilbur and wife
Mather Bosworth and wife	Phillip Shaw and wife
David Scott	Lydia Davenport
Esther Wilcox	Rebecca Waters
Sarah Bates	Lydia Bennett
Abigal Sexton	Sally Richmond

Silas Stow deeded, January 9, 1807, to the citizens of Lowville, the land upon which this stone church now stands, to be used for the erection of a building suitable for a meeting house or any other public building, such as an academy. During this year a building was erected two stories high at a cost of about \$2,000. In September of the same year at a meeting of the inhabitants of Lowville, a church was organized under the laws of the State of New York, known as the First Congregational Society of Lowville. Isaac W. Bostwick was chairman of this meeting and the following trustees were named: Benjamin Hillman, James H. Leonard, Isaac W. Bostwick, James Stevens, Jonathan Patten and William Darrow. This apparently was an effort to unite the people of the Stow Square church and the people of the village of Lowville into one society, as the incorporation provided for the election of three trustees from each of the two parts of town. The following resolution passed March 4, 1808, is also evidence of the desire to unite the two sections into one church: "Resolved, That public exercise shall be performed at the Academy in the village of Lowville one whole day,



and at such place in the northern part of the town as the trustees or society shall name one whole day alternately until the next annual meeting of the Society." This Society called Rev. Isaac Clinton to be its pastor, at a salary not to exceed \$400, and Mr. Clinton was installed in March, 1808, just a few days prior to his installation in the Stow Square church. Mr. Clinton served both churches until February 14, 1816, when he was succeeded by Rev. Daniel Nash, who remained as pastor until 1821. So for nearly fourteen years the people of these two congregations worshipped together. But the time came when it did not seem practicable that this condition should continue, as was indicated by the action of the Stow Square Church in deciding to erect a church building separate from the south part of the town, which was done by resolution in January, 1819, and also by entering the St. Lawrence Presbytery. Further evidence along this line is shown by the fact that the people of the village met at the house of M. W. Wells, November 22, 1820, for the purpose of forming a religious society. At this meeting the following action was taken:

"Resolved, That we form a religious society in the south part of the town of Lowville.

"Resolved, That the society shall be named and styled The Lowville Presbyterian Society.

"Resolved, That the name or title by which the trustees and their successors shall be forever hereafter called and known shall be The Trustees of the Lowville Presbyterian Society."

This organization was kept alive and in November, 1821, Rev. David Kimball was engaged to preach for a period not exceeding two years.

The record tells us that on July 11, 1822, the following persons assembled at the home of Garret Bostwick, and after having opened the meeting with prayer, agreed to constitute themselves into a church in the Presbyterian Society of Lowville Village:

Garret and Revera Bostwick

Timothy P. and Florelia Shepard

Mrs. Elizabeth Burke, Mrs. Maria Collins

Mrs. Mary Neif, Mrs. Mary Rogers

Mrs. Mary Spofford, Mrs. Abigail Wells

Mrs. Hannah Williams, Seymour Gookins

On Sunday, July 14, 1822, these twelve persons publicly assented to the Confession of Faith and entered into covenant, and were formally constituted a branch of the Presbyterian Church of the United States.

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

All the charter members previous to this had been members of the Presbyterian Church on Stow Square and of the Congregational Church of Lowville Village. Therefore from these two churches the Lowville Presbyterian Society came into existence, and with a regular minister, a session, a board of trustees and these twelve members did this church begin to function, and for these many years it has continued an unbroken service to this community.

The early reports of the church were made to the Presbytery of St. Lawrence, and always under the name of the Second Church of Lowville. It was not until 1870 or 1871 that the church reported to the Utica Presbytery. How this church came to be designated The First Presbyterian Church of Lowville can probably be explained by the fact that the Stow Square Church dismissed many of its members to this Society, and a record of the Stow Square Church, under date of February 4, 1850, signed by Fenner Bosworth, clerk, says: "There has been no meeting of the church for the last year. The members what could have met for meetings with the Second Church of Lowville and have helped supporting the preaching of Rev. G. P. Tyler." Thus it would seem that this church gradually absorbed the Stow Square Church, and was, therefore, entitled to be called the First Presbyterian Church of Lowville.

It is interesting to note that the Stow Square Church building was given in 1860 to the Open Communion Baptist Society of Lowville, and such parts of it as could be used were removed and erected on Dayan Street in the village of Lowville. A monument was erected on the site of the old Stow Square Church through the efforts of the late Rev. Frederick Campbell.

In May, 1826, the Presbyterian Society purchased from the Congregational Society for \$300 the old Academy building which stood on this site. The records show that attempts were made to remodel this building, but without success. It was used by the Society for about eighteen months when it burned December 26, 1827. The Society then built a new church forty-four by sixty-four feet "with a spire," very similar in style to the present edifice, at a cost of about \$3,500. This building was dedicated January 15, 1829, and was occupied until the evening of January 3, 1830, when it too burned. In October of the same year another discouragement was encountered in the resignation of the beloved pastor, Rev. David Kimball, who had faithfully served the church for over eight years. During this period the membership had increased from the original 12 to 82.

The following is a copy of the subscription pledge which was cir-

culated to raise the necessary funds for building the present church under date of January 10, 1830:

"We, the subscribers, severally promise to pay to the Trustees of the Lowville Presbyterian Society, or their successors in office, or their order the sums set opposite our respective names, in cash, pork, beef or beef cattle, or merchantable grain, or suitable materials for building, of such description, kind and quality as may be required by the builder, all at cash prices, for the purpose of erecting a new Presbyterian meeting house in the village of Lowville. The subscriptions in cash, pork or grain to be paid, one half on or before the first day of January, 1831, the other half on or before the first day of January, 1832; those payable in beef or beef cattle, one half to be paid in the month of October, 1830, the other half in the month of October, 1831; those payable in materials, within thirty days after demand made and to be delivered at such place in said village as the said trustees or their assigns may direct."

This subscription paper was signed by over one hundred of these persevering people, and at a meeting of the Society held February 16, 1830, it was resolved to build a new meeting house, and Isaac W. Bostwick, M. W. Wells, Stephen Leonard and Ela Collins were made a building committee. This stone church was erected by Ezra Brainard at a cost of about \$4,000.

The above subscription did not raise the required amount, and the balance was raised by selling slips or seats after the following manner—an appraisal of the seats was made, so apportioned that the total value of all the seats should equal the total amount of money needed. Then the slips were sold at public auction to the highest bidders, who were given four years in which to pay in equal annual payments with interest, and when fully paid for, the purchasers were given certificates of ownership.

The interior arrangement of this building must have presented an unusual appearance. Two doors gave entrance to the auditorium from the porch. The pulpit was located between these doors, so that one upon entering faced the audience. This plan must have been adopted so that the late comers could not drop into the rear seats, but could always have a front pew. There was a gallery on both the east and west sides of the church, and the space occupied by the present gallery was a room called the session room.

In 1865 extensive alterations and repairs were made at a cost of something over \$3,000. The side galleries were removed, a new pulpit with new furnishings was placed at the rear end of the church, new

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

seats were purchased, and the session room was made into our present gallery, in which an organ was installed. Three entrances from the vestibule into the auditorium and three aisles came into existence.

In 1877 our present organ was purchased, and this fact recalls to our minds the long and faithful service of Dr. H. Prescott Chambers as organist of this church.

During the period beginning about 1890 the question of extensive repairs or a new church edifice began to be discussed, but it was not until 1906 that it became possible to carry out any such plans. Then during the pastorate of the Rev. Cuthbert C. Frost, the alterations and improvements were made, among them being the installation of a stone porch at the entrance. This was done at a cost of about \$9,000.

In 1848 the house occupied by the Rev. George P. Tyler, the pastor, and owned by Miss Ruby Williams, was purchased by the Society for a parsonage. This house was thoroughly repaired and enlarged and the front porch built during the pastorate of the Rev. J. Westby Earnshaw. Improvements have been made from time to time, and largely due to the energy and care of our ladies' organizations the manse has been maintained in excellent condition.

During the year 1853 a Session House was erected. This is the building which constitutes the front part of our present Church House. We all know of the additions and improvements that have been made to this building, until now we have a well equipped place for the meetings and social gatherings of our people. Here again we must give credit and thanks to our splendid, hard working ladies' organizations.

A Sunday School was organized in 1822 soon after the founding of the Society and has been continuously maintained.

The exterior of the present structure has changed but little in the intervening years save for an addition to the rear of the church to provide some Sunday School rooms and an alcove to house the organ, which had previously been in the south balcony, and to make room for the choir. The windows of the church originally were of frosted glass and have been replaced with stained glass windows.

In 1937 the supporting wall under the south gallery was moved a few feet toward the north in order to provide a larger vestibule. Also at this time the stone porch was removed and the front entrance restored to its original form.

The most recent change in the church structure was undertaken in 1952 at which time, and at a cost of \$20,000, the area under the sanctuary, which up to this time was merely a hole in the ground large enough for a furnace, was excavated and a beautiful room nearly as

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

large as the sanctuary area was provided for use by the congregation.

The Sessions House is now called the Church House.

From the inception of the Congregational Church at Stow Square and the Presbyterian Society of Lowville in 1808, twenty-five ministers have served the congregation. The Rev. O. T. Anderson, the present pastor, has served the church the longest. He commenced his pastorate in January, 1929, and in 1954 he was tendered a reception by the congregation in recognition of his twenty-five years of service at this church. Prior to his service the Rev. Garrett L. Roof had served the church for fourteen years, viz., 1863-1879.

The church now has 493 members.

This brief report has stressed beginnings and property more than it has the wonderful people who have worked unceasingly for the continued development of the church. At the time of this writing there are nine active elders, nine active deacons and nine active trustees. Very active organizations, embracing every age group, and for men and for women, as well as a very active Church School guarantee the projection into the future the vision of those who began the venture of faith so many years ago.

**1816314**



## St. Peter's Parish

ST. PETER'S PARISH was organized in 1866 and included the towns of Lowville, Martinsburg, Watson, Harrisburg and Pinckney in Lewis County. At that time there were three churches in the territory, St. Patrick's at Maple Ridge, St. Mary's in Harrisburg and Sts. Peter and Paul in New Boston in the Town of Pinckney. Father Herbst was appointed the first pastor by Bishop Conroy of the Diocese of Albany. Lowville, being the largest village and soon to have the railroad, was chosen as the residence of the first pastor. Services were held in the Court House.

The second pastor was Rev. Joseph Fitz Gerald who came to Lowville in December, 1867. He continued to say mass in the Court House until October, 1869, when the first Catholic church was built on Church Street. Also in 1869 the parish of St. Mary's in Copenhagen was organized, taking over the missions of Harrisburg and New Boston.

Rev. William Nyhan succeeded Father Fitz Gerald in 1871. A rectory was built in 1876; also a new sanctuary with marble altar. A pipe organ was also installed. Rev. Joseph Reddington was pastor from 1883 to 1884, Rev. P. H. Ryan from 1886 to 1893. Rev. C. J. McMorrow was pastor from 1893 to 1898. He erected an annex as a meeting place for the Church Societies and Sunday School. Father McMorrow died in Lowville in March, 1898, and was succeeded by Rev. John H. O'Rourke. A new tower was built and a bell was blessed and hung on Thanksgiving day, 1901. The Knights of Columbus were formed in 1903 and the Holy Name Society in 1904.

Rev. George L. Murray followed Father O'Rourke in 1908 and was pastor for thirty-four years until 1942. In 1918 St. Mary's parish was established in Glenfield. It took in the towns of Watson and Greig and Maple Ridge became its mission. With the steady growth of the parish it became obvious that a new church was necessary. One and one half acres of land was purchased on Shady Ave. The cellar was dug in 1927, the corner stone was laid April 28, 1928, and the dedication of the new St. Peter's took place on Trinity Sunday, May 26, 1929.

The church, costing \$200,000, seats eight hundred people. It is of Romanesque architecture and constructed of Gouverneur marble. St. Peter's Hall is the personal volunteer work of the men of the parish. It is well equipped for parochial activities by the work of St. Theresa's Guild. The beautiful main altar was consecrated on November 12, 1932. This beautiful gift is from the Rosary-Altar Society (then known

as the Ladies' Aid) whose records show that they have given more than \$25,000 to St. Peter's parish.

Such leadership could not go unrecognized, and Father Murray long since a Diocesan consalter and Dean of Lewis County was made a Domestic Prelate. On August 8, 1935, pastor and people were honored by the Holy Father when Bishop Conroy, in the presence of thirty priests and an overcrowded church, clothed him in the Monsignor's Robes.

It was a happy day for St. Peter's when in September, 1940, three Felician Sisters came to St. Peter's. A convent was prepared for them in the house at the rear of the church. Their work, particularly with the children in religion classes, has borne abundant fruit, and their presence is a constant benediction on the whole parish.

Monsignor Murray was called to his eternal reward on May 24, 1942, mourned not only by his own people but by all who knew him. Monsignor John M. Hogan became pastor on August 12, 1942. His pastorate was during the difficult war years, yet he paid off the remaining debt—but most of all his zeal contributed much to the spiritual growth of the parish. The Honor Roll contains 106 names of those who were in the Armed Forces. Two gold stars decorate the names of those who made the supreme sacrifice.

On April 2, 1949, Monsignor Hogan was transferred to Canton and Rev. John A. Cotter became pastor. Since 1949 the church has been decorated and the Sister's Convent has been entirely renovated. In the autumn of 1951 a new pipe organ was presented to the church by St. Theresa's Guild.

Five assistants have labored in the parish, Rev. C. A. Richardson during the last six years of Monsignor Murray's life. Toward the end he was assisted by Rev. E. P. Burns. Rev. John McNamara followed until 1947. Rev. Robert L. Cotter was assistant from 1947 to 1951. Since 1951, Rev. Adrian J. Carroll has continued the good work.

At present the following societies provide an outlet for parochial activities: The League of the Sacred Heart, The Holy Name, the Knights of Columbus, The Rosary-Altar Society, The Daughters of Isabella, St. Theresa's Guild, the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin, the Boy Scouts and the Columbian Squires.

It is the hope of priests, sisters and members of the parish that, under God, St. Peter's may long continue to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of Lowville.

# HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE



*St. Peter's Catholic Church*



*Trinity Episcopal Church*

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## Trinity Episcopal Church

As THEY SIT in their pews of a Sunday morning and look at the commemorative tablets, the age-worn furnishings, the memorial gifts, do the young people and the newcomers sometimes wonder about the Church's early beginnings? For their benefit and for that of others whose memories need refreshing, let us go back to the time when Lowville was young, and trace, as well as we can, the history of Trinity Parish.

Services were held as early as 1800 in the home of Judge Stowe, agent for Nicholas Low for whom the town was named. In 1818 Bishop John H. Hobart visited Lowville and confirmed several persons. A parish had been organized at Turin the previous year and services were occasionally held in Lowville by the Rev. Joshua M. Rogers of that parish, and sometimes by other clergymen passing through.

Trinity Church was legally organized in September, 1838, and the first regular meeting was held on Good Friday, 1839, in Merritt Norton's parlor. Norton's home was the fourth one above the Academy. During the following six months, services were held in the law office of William Collins in a building later replaced by the one now containing Allen's drug store.

It was not until 1843 that the first rector, Rev. Edward A. Renouf, took charge. Before that time Levi W. Norton, a lay reader, had read the service. Thereafter, until the completion of the first church edifice, a room in a building just above the present location of the Lewis County Trust Company, was used. A rented organ was very much appreciated as the members felt is helped decidedly to enliven the meetings.

A building lot was procured from I. W. Bostwick; the cornerstone of the new structure was laid with religious ceremonies by Mr. Renouf; the church was completed and was consecrated on November 7, 1846, by Bishop Delaney of the Diocese of Western New York. (It was not until 1868 that the Diocese of Central New York was formed.)

The financial situation must have been of primary importance. The only means of revenue seems to have been by individual subscription. Even so, matters steadily improved. In 1851 the Church was entirely out of debt and its prospects brighter than formerly. During the pastorate of Mr. Renouf, 1843-1853, many additions were made. A furnace was bought, a small secondhand pipe organ was purchased by the rector and later presented by him to the Church, a tower was



## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

erected, a 721-pound bell installed and the building of a rectory planned.

The Rev. Mr. John Bayley became rector in 1857 and he seems to have accomplished much, as shown by the increasing roll of baptised persons and by improvements made to the property. The rectory was built and then the congregation decided to build a new church. The original edifice was removed to Shady Avenue where it was fitted out for an armory, then subsequently sold to become the rear part of the Arthur feed building. The present brick structure, an example of architectural excellence, was erected in 1863 at a cost of approximately \$12,000 and consecrated in 1864. The tower was not added until about ten years later. Through the generosity of Mr. Ansel Foster and the Hon. D. C. West, Sr., the acquiring of a pipe organ originally belonging to St. Anne's Church, New York City, must have been an occasion of great rejoicing.

The last quarter of the century brought other clergymen to Lowville, many of whom are remembered for what they accomplished. Some of these names still have a familiar ring to the older members of the parish — Mr. Irish, Mr. Allen, Mr. Gardner, Mr. DeMille, Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Tindell. The Rev. Mr. Doolittle was here at the turn of the century. Seven years after his leaving Mr. Braithwaite began a short but fruitful ministry. Then followed the long pastorate of Mr. Ebersole and the longer one of Fr. Bennett. The present rector, Fr. Pedersen, is continuing to bring new members into the parish, a movement successfully started by Fr. Bennett, particularly in the work of the latter with the young people.

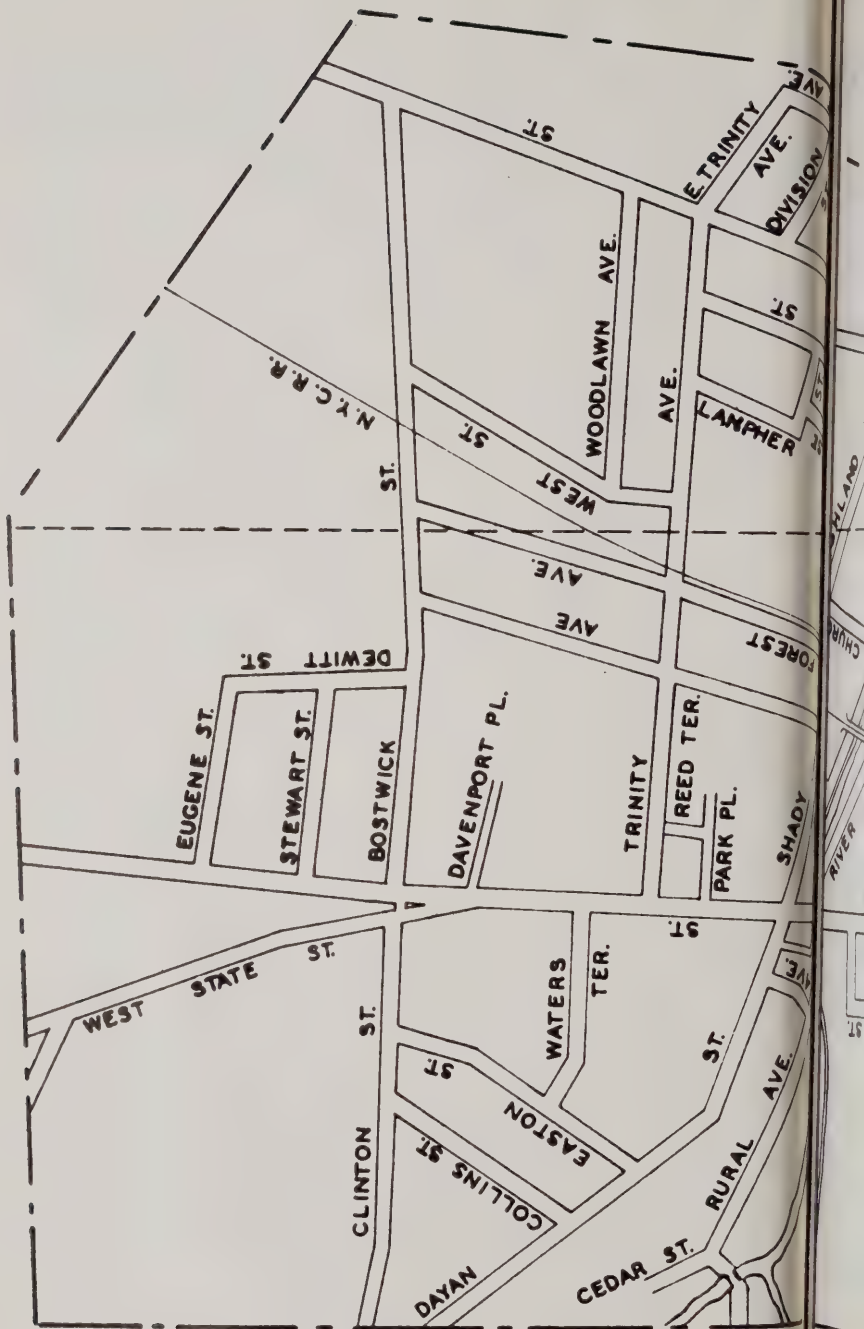
The parochial activities of the women have always been an important factor in the Church's growth. The Woman's Auxiliary, first organized here in 1882, Circle Six, formed in 1915 by a group of young women, the Altar Society, initiated by Mr. Braithwaite, and the United Thank Offering—each one has contributed in its own way to the spiritual and material progress of Trinity Church.

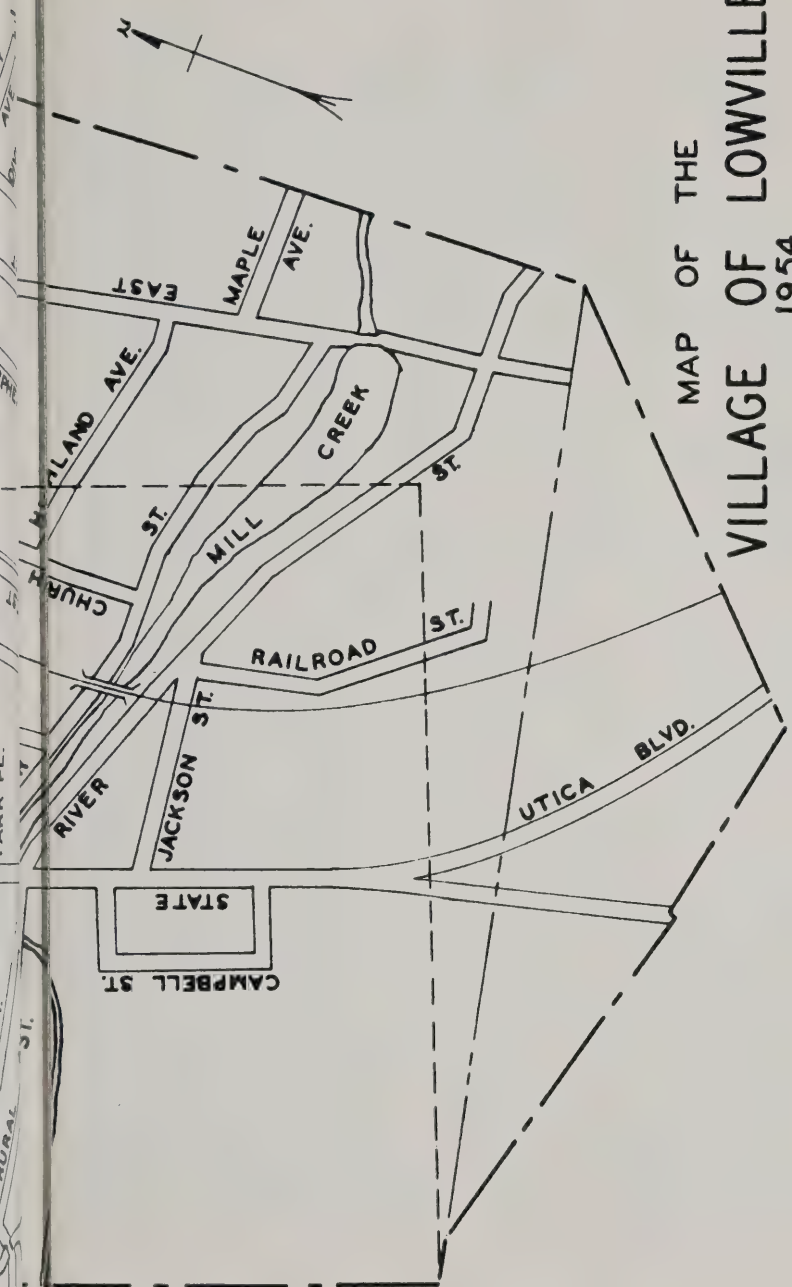
During Fr. Bennett's ministry an important event took place. In 1938 the one hundredth anniversary of the parish's organization was celebrated, marked by a fitting religious and social program. A booklet was published, containing not only features of immediate interest but also (of lasting importance) a list of memorials given over the hundred-year period. Listed are the two commemorative tablets which hang upon the walls of the nave, the altar cross, the lectern, the alms basins, the vases, the credence table, the candlesticks. In 1924 a long-felt want was satisfied by the gift of Trinity Parish House, and in 1937 an electric organ and chimes was given to take the place of the old organ.



## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

It is through memorials that we are reminded of an older generation now gone. By this means, names of former churchmen who in the ordinary course of time would have long since been forgotten, still have meaning for us in Trinity Church today.





MAP OF THE  
VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE  
1954

# The Academy

By WALTER S. KEEN

MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS of corporate existence, more than 125 years on the same location and more than 145 years of continued activity in the interest of youth education is a record of which few educational institutions in Northern New York can boast. It was only twenty years after the adoption of the United States Constitution—but two decades after the establishment of the University of the State of New York—that a charter was granted to Lowville Academy. This document, the original of which is well preserved and on display in a large frame in the Academy library, provided for the incorporation of the trustees, for "visitation" by the Regents and a share in the distribution of state aid from the Literature Fund.

Interest and activity in the cause of education had preceded the application for the charter by several years. The building, originally intended for county purposes, was diverted to "the promotion of literature" when the county seat was established elsewhere. This fine structure, located on the present site of the Presbyterian Church, was built through funds raised by local subscription and was also used as a meeting place and church. Among the several men who labored diligently to establish a school was Rev. Isaac Clinton, a cousin of DeWitt Clinton, and a graduate of Yale College. His ability and experience in the field of education enabled him to provide immeasurable assistance in the early organization. He was selected as the first principal.

From a humble beginning of eighteen boys and nineteen girls, taught by a gentleman of the old school—long black broadcloth coat, velvet knee breeches, buckled shoes and all—the Academy grew in size and reputation. With no other institution of learning north of Clinton, it was natural that the students of the North Country should be attracted to Lowville. By 1823 it was found that the building could no longer meet the growing need for more room and was unsuited for the double purpose of school and church.

The generous attitude of the State in loaning money and six years of unprecedented success under Stephen W. Taylor appeared to warrant the erection of a new building.

Complete trust and confidence in the ability of Mr. Taylor prompted the trustees to adopt the unique and unusual Taylor design in the construction of the new building. The site was selected on the east side of State Street just north of the center of the village, where the present

building stands. The building was erected in the summer of 1825 and opened with fitting ceremonies. Here was something new and fine in school architecture—a twelve-sided, two-story brick building, about seventy feet from side to side; the second floor and roof supported by giant twelve-sided columns; a tin-covered dome and central belfry, with a promenade and balustrade on the roof.

Within a few years it was discovered that the building was faulty in many respects. The heating plant was deficient, the accoustics were very poor, and the walls were inadequate to withstand the pressure—the pressure caused by the building design and stern disciplinary standards of the administration. A decision to erect a new and more suitable building was made and Mr. Taylor, sensitive over the failure of this plan, requested release from his contract.

The new building, erected on the site of the twelve-sided edifice, was opened in 1836 with ceremonies befitting the occasion. This was the main building that was so familiar a sight to our fathers for it stood as a living monument to education until 1924. Of rectangular shape and three stories in height, it was the pride of the local citizens for a large part of the \$4,500 cost was raised by public subscription among the townspeople.

The years following Mr. Taylor's resignation were unsettled ones with the teaching and administrative personnel changing frequently until the 1840's when David P. Mayhew was engaged. By his zeal and farsightedness, he set the stage for better and more prosperous years to come. He created an increase in teaching facilities, in offerings, in attendance, and reputation. Under him the first teacher training classes were begun and the literary societies were started.

The period following Mr. Mayhew's resignation might be called one of Rebirth or Revival for William Adams' ability to administer revitalized and stablized the school. A more unified and more highly specialized course of study was adopted. Library facilities increased, literary societies such as the Mystic Society and Philothalean Society were fostered, and school registration increased to "111 gentlemen and 112 ladies." Financial conditions improved to such an extent that expansion seemed justified and in 1861 wings were added to both ends of the original structure. The south wing was devoted essentially to living quarters, the north one to class and study rooms.

A succession of five principals in eight years produced the expected results and in 1874 William Adams was called to provide the direction and force so badly needed. Mr. Adams remained until 1892 when he



## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

again resigned after more than a half-century as student, principal and trustee.

Lincoln E. Rowley, W. H. Perry, William H. Breeze, Merton D. Merring, and C. H. Atwood succeeded Mr. Adams. It was during this thirty-year period that the Academy took more semblance of a public high school. Public education for all became more of a reality in 1905 when an agreement was entered into with the Board of Education of Union Free School District No. 2 of Lowville. By the terms of the contract, the trustees conducted and maintained the Academy and school for the instruction of pupils in academic branches. The pupils of academic grade in the school district were furnished instruction without cost or expense to them, and those not so entitled, were furnished instruction at specified rates. By this novel arrangement, the Academy retained its identity and the children of academic grades in the district were provided with free instruction.

By 1920, it began to be generally acknowledged that the Academy buildings and equipment were old, out of repair and no longer suitable and proper for use for school purposes. The buildings were inadequate in size to accommodate the pupils attending the school as well as poorly heated, lighted, and ventilated and obsolete in every respect. The income from the trust funds was so small that it was no longer possible to maintain a school and keep the building in repair. Circumstances were so changed that the Academy could no longer carry out the purpose for which it was organized nor comply with the terms of the bequests. As a result, an agreement was reached by representatives of the Commissioner of Education, Trustees of Lowville Academy and the School Board of Union Free School District No. 2, conveying the real and personal property of Lowville Academy to the Union Free School District. On March 14, 1924, the Board of Trustees conveyed the last of the real and personal property to the Board of Education. Thus the only academy to complete more than one hundred years of corporate service ceased to exist. Leon A. Davis, who had been engaged as principal in 1921, became the twenty-sixth principal of Lowville Academy and the first principal of Lowville Academy and Union Free School.

In 1926, a new \$500,000 building was dedicated and a new Lowville Academy came into being—new in appearance but still rich in heritage and tradition, still referred to by her loyal supporters as "The Academy." The decision by the voters in 1953 to combine adjoining school districts resulted in a new centralized district and a new name—The Lowville Academy and Central School.

HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE



*U. S. Post Office, Lowville, New York*



*Lowville Academy—Prior to 1924*

HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE



*Lowville Academy and Central School*



*Lowville Free Library*

## The Lowville Free Library

THE LOWVILLE FREE LIBRARY was opened for the first time on the 16th of November, 1903. It was housed in one room on the first floor of the Town Hall, the use of which was given by the village.

Previously, several meetings had been held and an association formed, of which Mr. W. H. Perry was the president. Other townspeople interested in the enterprise were Mrs. Frank Doig, Mrs. Henry Phillips, Mrs. C. P. Leonard, Hon. Charles L. Knapp, Mr. E. J. Boshart and Mr. C. Fred Boshart. The latter, who was one of the trustees, had the first card made out to his daughter Margaret.

Miss Anna E. Crawford was the first librarian. The following is taken from a memorandum recently made by her:

"We had less than a hundred books. The non-fiction was mostly gifts from a book club. I had bought a few novels and some children's books. The Albany people urged us to open with such a small stock as they said people would give money more freely if they could see how it was used. We had only five or six bookcases but more were bought as needed.

"The room was heated by a stove—first wood, later coal. I had to sit with my feet on a soapstone in the winter. Someone gave an old painted desk—one drawer and a cupboard top. This was my office!

"We had two to three hundred dollars, money subscribed by more or less reluctant residents who had never had a public library and saw little need for one. Mrs. Doig and Mrs. Phillips did most of the soliciting. A few people pledged \$5 per year for five years. I told the trustees I would give my time for a year; after that they paid me 10 cents an hour. I had help from various young women—Grace Dunn, Jane Arthur, May McGovern, Mary Gebbie, Gertrude Dean, Lamoine Roberts, Ida Bloseur. The last two were paid a little—maybe some of the others.

"We were in the Town Hall five or six years—by that time the cases covered most of the floor and we moved across the street to the rooms over what is now Stanley's grocery."

Miss Crawford resigned as librarian in 1917 and Miss Bloseur, one of the assistants, tried to go on. But she found it too much for her and the library was closed for a time.

In 1920 the board of trustees appointed Miss Alice E. Allen librarian. Mrs. E. R. Scates, who had been helping out prior to this, remained as her assistant and served untiringly for over twenty-five years.



## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

The ambition of the Library Association to have a new building began to take shape and in 1926 a definite start was made. The daughters of the late R. J. Richardson had presented the Association with a site on Dayan Street, there was already a building fund of \$7,000, and the D. A. R. had raised over \$5,000 to add to the fund. Owing to the efforts of a soliciting committee and the whole-hearted response of the public, more than \$24,000 was subscribed in a two weeks' drive. In 1927 the plan became a reality and the new library was completed at a cost of \$43,100. On November 10 it was opened to the townsfolk.

A newspaper article of that day reads as follows:

"The Library Association is properly proud of the new building built through its efforts over many years, and the entire Town of Lowville can well be proud of it. The officers of the Association are Mr. W. J. Milligan, president; Hon. C. L. Knapp, vice-president; Mrs. Marion S. King, secretary-treasurer."

Fresh energy seemed to come into the life of the library when, in 1949, the Regional Library Service Center in Watertown began its service in three counties of Northern New York, of which Lewis County was one. This project of the New York State Library, an experiment at first, supplemented the local libraries and furnished a wide variety of books on loan. Although the Lowville Free Library had an excellent collection of its own, due to the wisdom and good taste of Miss Allen in book selection, the Regional Library's increasing supply of current non-fiction, fiction, children's books and films captured the interest of the reading public.

On January 1, 1952, Miss Allen resigned her position after thirty-one years of service. The following is quoted from an editorial in the *Lowville Leader*:

"It is with the deepest regret that we announce the retirement of Miss Alice E. Allen, Lowville Free Library head for more than a quarter of a century. Miss Allen has been with the library even before the present building was erected. She is responsible for the excellent collection of children's books in the library. She has taken the initiative in providing adults with the latest and best reading materials. The library will bear the imprint of her labors for some years to come and her work has made the way easier for all those who will follow her."

Mrs. S. B. Miller, who was Miss Allen's assistant at the time of her retirement, has now become librarian. Mrs. Byrne O'Connor has been appointed assistant librarian by the board of trustees of which Mr. G. Byron Bowen is the president. Mrs. C. R. Hedden continues to give unfailing aid at the circulation desk, as she has for many years.



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Miss Anna E. Crawford, now librarian emeritus, is still actively concerned with all library matters. Her good judgment and candid advice are of invaluable help to the present librarian.

The attractive brick building on Dayan Street is a busy place these days. An auditorium in the basement is available to all organizations for their meetings. In the basement also is the room assigned to the Lewis County Historical Association, which contains many relics and gems of antiquity. This display is especially popular with the children. In the main section above, with the reference and reading room on the left and the children's room on the right, the walls—no longer new—fairly hum with activity. All manner of townspeople make themselves at home there, reading at the magazine tables, picking up the latest best-seller to take home, or just browsing in the stacks. After school hours and on Saturdays the children literally fill their room, seemingly certain of being welcome and conscious of their benefits. They are indeed welcome to these benefits, for it is through a continuous succession of young people that the library keeps its vitality. May it continue to thrive and to serve the book-lovers of the village.

The library is now maintained principally by the Village and Town of Lowville.

## American Legion

A MEETING WAS CALLED by a few members of the Armed Forces in St. Louis to make plans to organize a World War I Veterans' Organization in the United States. This meeting in March, 1919, was the start of the American Legion as it is known today. As early as June, 1919, a local Post was formed in the Village of Lowville by the late Claude Dekin and the late Ernest J. Wolfe with fifteen members. The Post was assigned the number 162 by the State organization and was known as Lowville Post No. 162. The original charter contained the following names: H. A. Bassett, N. C. Bateman, C. Ralph Boshart, William F. D'Aran, Claude A. Dekin, Murray Dekin, F. S. Easton, Jr., S. J. Harris, Henderson Lane, S. B. Miller, M. B. Moran, Gerald A. Nortz, Russell Peckham, Raymond Richardson, Ernest J. Wolfe. The first commander of the Post was C. Ralph Boshart. Of the original fifteen members, nine are deceased.

Between 1920 and 1923 Post quarters were maintained in the Times block. As the membership enlarged it became necessary to hold meetings in a larger place. Therefore monthly meetings and dinners were held at different places such as the Fire Hall, Strife House and Windsor Hotel or other various places that could accommodate the growing membership. This method of meeting was continued until 1929 when the old G. A. R. rooms in the Town Hall (now the Town Hall Theater) were taken over. The Post occupied these rooms until 1937 when the top floor of the Black River National Bank building was leased.

During World War II the National Legion constitution was amended giving the World War II veterans the right to join the American Legion. As these veterans returned home the Legion membership increased from 106 in 1943 to 500 in 1946. The past few years the average membership has been about 300. Veterans of the Korean conflict have also become eligible to belong to the American Legion.

On March 1, 1945, the Post bought and equipped their present home on Dayan Street. About this same time the Post's name was changed from Lowville Post No. 162 to Lowville Memorial Post No. 162. The home was dedicated as a memorial to those service men from the village who had given their lives for their country.

The main projects of the American Legion, with its Auxiliary are the rehabilitation of our veterans, Americanism, and child welfare. In 1929 the American Legion Christmas Cheer Program was started. Toys were repaired and that year 52 children were given presents. The project has continued throughout the years. This past year 132 children

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

in Lowville and vicinity were participants of toys, food, and some clothing from the American Legion Christmas Cheer.

In 1925 the American Legion took over the Memorial Day parade and services from the G. A. R. In connection with Memorial Day the Legion places flags on the graves of the deceased veterans from all wars in Lowville and vicinity.

The Lowville Post Drum Corps was organized in 1932 by the late Ernest J. Wolfe. This corps consisted of twenty-four men. Henry Schaab was the first drum major having been replaced only by Loren Bush, the present drum major. This year the corps purchased new bugles and drums for the first time since 1932. In 1933 this corps was considered the drum champions of Northern New York, having taken first place in most all Northern New York competition.

Throughout the thirty-five years of its existence, the Lowville Memorial Post has been honored by having members serve on National, State and District Committees. District Commanders have been the late D. P. Carey (1933-34); Stuart J. Harris (1939-40) and C. D. Kingsbury (1945-46). In 1946 Mr. Kingsbury was elected State Vice-Commander and in 1948 was elected and elevated to the top position of the American Legion in the State of New York as Commander. Mr. Kingsbury is the only member of the Lowville Post at the present time to hold a life membership in the American Legion.

The present commander is Lloyd Rasmussen.

\* \* \* \*

## GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

WITH THE ORGANIZATION of the American Legion Post one might reasonably say that the Guilford D. Bailey Post No. 200, Department of New York, Grand Army of the Republic, gracefully bowed out of existence. This G. A. R. Post was first originated in September, 1882, with the Honorable Henry E. Turner, Commander. At one time the Post had a membership of 206. The soldiers' monument in the park between State Street and West State Street, in front of the Presbyterian Church, was erected under its auspices.

## American Legion Auxiliary

THE FIRST AUXILIARY UNIT in Lowville was started on or about August 7, 1922, but because of the lack of the necessary endorsements on the application blank a charter was not received. This unit, although not chartered, functioned for a short time.

On November 1, 1932, ten years later, a meeting was called at the Lowville Club House at Lowville, New York, at which time the State President, Mrs. Florence Schmidt and the Fifth District Chairman, Mrs. Francis Hoffman, were present. At this meeting a permanent organization was perfected and the following persons became charter members:

Bonnalyn C. Miller, Florence M. Williams, Fanny M. Jonas, Clara E. Gaylord, Rose M. Hubbard, Elizabeth M. Hake, Madge B. Harris, Dorothy F. Schaab, Bertha B. Sammis, Charlotte M. Miller, Grace D. Schlieder, Margaret M. Harris, Lillian A. LaVallee-Smith, Mary A. Schantz, Genevieve E. Wolfe, Anna Virkler Foote—all of Lowville.

The officers of this organization for the year of 1932-33 were as follows: President, Mrs. Bonnalyn Miller; Vice-President, Mrs. Clara Gaylord; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Ethel Arthur; Secretary, Mrs. Florence Williams; Treasurer, Miss Fanny Jonas; Chaplain, Mrs. Mildred Profio; Historian, Mrs. Bertha B. Sammis.

The officers for the Unit at the present time, 1953-54, are as follows: President, Mrs. Sophie Rasmussen; Vice-President, Mrs. Phyliss Davis; Secretary, Mrs. Rita Fogarty; Treasurer, Mrs. Dorothy Greene; Chaplain, Miss Marie Farney; Historian, Mrs. Gertrude Rebb.

Through the years the members of the Auxiliary have worked hard to make life a little easier and happier for the people of our community. We contribute our time and money to the different drives for funds such as Red Cross, Boy and Girl Scouts, Polio, Cancer, Heart, Muscular Dystrophy.

We have for many years made a special effort at Christmas time to provide clothes, toys and food for the needy children and families of this community. We help all needy families, regardless of their being veterans or not. We have four hospital beds, two wheelchairs, and a pair of crutches which we lend to anyone in need of them. From time to time a case of special need comes to our attention and we provide clothes and financial help to a family. Last year at Christmas the ladies of the Auxiliary prepared a box for the aged at the County Home.

On many community projects we work jointly with the Legion and

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other organizations to promote the best for our community.

Of course, we have many projects which we support that are directly connected with the veterans and Legion such as: our aid to the V.A. hospitals, contributions to national defense, and aid to orphans of veterans.

Our aim is to make our community a better place to live in, to promote peace and good will; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy which have helped to make our village and all the villages throughout this great land of ours the wonderful place they are today.



## Lowville Lodge, B. P. O. E. No. 1605

IT WAS IN 1937 that a group of men, members of various Lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, felt the need of a Lodge in Lowville, New York. The Order of Elks was then sixty-nine years old, having been originated in New York City on February 16, 1868, founded upon the belief in a Supreme Being and based on the cardinal virtues of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity. To be eligible for membership one must be a citizen of the United States of America, twenty-one years of age, and a believer in the existence of a Supreme Being. As the United States of America came into existence to secure to its people certain inalienable rights, including "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness," in our Order it is a cardinal principle that it is more blessed to give than to receive. This may account in part for the exceptional and enviable record which our Order has maintained throughout the nation.

For more than twenty years there had been a Lowville Club owning the building which is now the B. P. O. E. Home. The membership of the Lowville Club had decreased to a point where those remaining felt that the organization of an Elks Lodge would meet with great success.

Accordingly, and on February 4, 1937, those who were interested in the formation of a Lodge of Elks held a meeting at the Strife House, Benjamin H. Demo acting as chairman. Approximately seventy-five persons were present, including members of the Order, members of the Lowville Club and others who were interested. It was the unanimous opinion of those present that such a Lodge was desirable. After the meeting was adjourned those who were members of the Order, nineteen in all, met and made plans for instituting the Lowville Lodge. A committee consisting of Perry G. Williams as chairman and Gilbert J. Lyng as secretary was named to arrange for making the necessary application. Twenty-nine members of the Order from various Lodges joined in the application which the committee prepared and on April 17, 1937, a dispensation was granted for the formation of an Elks Lodge at Lowville, New York.

On April 26, 1937, an agreement was entered into between the Lowville Club and an association of members from the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks for the sale of the Club's property to the Elks Lodge when the latter became incorporated. Possession of the property passed and when Lowville Lodge was incorporated later in 1937 the

title to the property passed to the Lodge and the Lodge gave a mortgage in the amount of \$6,000.

On May 12, 1937, District Deputy John B. Keane, a member of Newark Lodge, B. P. O. E., in company with the Watertown Lodge No. 496, instituted Lowville Lodge No. 1605, with 134 charter members, the charter being granted by the Grand Lodge on July 15, 1937.

The mortgage given upon the property being fully paid on February 11, 1942, while Dr. Thomas A. Lynch, now deceased, was exalted ruler of the Lodge, was burned with appropriate ceremonies. At that time our Lodge was entirely free from debt.

In the succeeding years the Lodge continued to grow in membership and many additions and improvements to the property were made.

In 1943 the Lodge purchased the building owned by Salisbury Brothers extending from the Lodge property to Exchange Street, and which is used as a storeroom at the present time.

In 1945 the large house and garage known as the Werner property and being the property between the Lodge Home and Cascade Avenue was purchased. Shortly thereafter the buildings were removed and Cascade Avenue widened by a gift from the Lodge to the village, the lot completely graded and prepared for use as a parking ground. A small plot of land at the front of the lot was made into a lawn and upon it is the flagstaff from which the emblem of our Order, the American Flag, floats.

In 1947 the second floor of the club building was entirely remodeled, making rooms for the offices of the Lodge, a card room, billiard room and the large lounge in the front of the building.

In 1948 and 1949 extensive repairs and additions were made to the building, providing for bowling alleys, properly equipped, grading and otherwise improving the property.

Seventeen years have now passed since the Lodge was instituted and we can look with much pleasure at what has been achieved by this Lodge during that time, and with the improvements now made and the increased membership, free of debt, and with the accumulations which we have, we can face the future with confidence that Lowville Lodge will continue to exemplify the principles of the Order and extend its usefulness to the community and to all who may come within the range of its influence.

The present exalted ruler is George Miller.

## Knights of Columbus

REV. C. J. McMORROW COUNCIL No. 781, Knights of Columbus, named in honor of Rev. C. J. McMorrow, pastor of St. Peter's Church 1893-1898, and who died in this village in the latter year, was instituted June 25, 1903, with forty-six charter members.

The installation ceremonies were held in Odd Fellows hall and were in charge of David D. Kieff of Watertown, then district deputy, and in the presence of over five hundred visiting members of the order. The first and second degrees were conferred in the afternoon by Judge John J. Cooney of Albany, and the major degree was exemplified in the evening by Hon. Daniel P. Lucy of Ogdensburg, then state deputy.

The Council is the "mother" of St. Stephen's Council of Croghan, the nucleus of which were Croghan members of the Lowville Society.

The Council was among the first to subscribe to the building fund for the new St. Peter's church when the subscription list was started in 1927. The membership voted, and immediately paid, \$2,000 for the purpose.

The Council also donates over \$200 a year to Wadhams Hall. At the present time it is sponsoring the Columbian Squires, Boy Scout Troop No. 71, and the annual Charity Ball, proceeds of which go to purely charitable purposes such as the Red Cross, March of Dimes, Cancer and Heart Funds and many other local charities.

At the present time C. J. McMorrow Council has nearly three hundred members.

Fourth degree members are affiliated with the Lowville assembly, which includes the members of that degree in Lewis County and of which Edward J. Monroe of Croghan was faithful navigator in 1929. At the present time J. Searle Powers is faithful navigator of the Seventh District which includes all six Councils.

The E. Gerold Donnelly Platoon of The Bishop Conroy General Assembly was formed in 1948 and is composed of members of both the Lowville and Croghan Councils. This color guard has appeared in many functions and won the plaudits of spectators wherever they have appeared. The Platoon is named in honor of the late E. Gerold Donnelly, its organizer.

In August, 1953, the Arthur Jones property on Shady Ave., was purchased for a K. of C. Home and has been completely remodeled and is ready for use.

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

The present officers are: Grand Knight, Matthew Beck; Deputy Grand Knight, Donald Anderson; Chancellor, J. Robert Lynch; Recorder, Lyle Calver; Advocate, Ralph Bush; Treasurer, Louis A. Meda; Warden, Steve Havas; Inside Guard, Erwin Kirk; Outside Guard, Louis Juhasz; Trustees, Harvey Kraeger, Charles Rogers, John Sturtz.

## Kiwanis Club of Lowville, New York

DURING THE EARLY PART of the year 1926, a group of Kiwanians from the club in Utica met with representative professional and business men of Lowville. As a result the Lowville Club was formed and Mr. D. C. West was elected to be the charter president. However, before formal induction he was compelled to resign. L. M. Toussaint, still an active businessman, thus became the official first president of the Kiwanis Club of Lowville.

The local Club's membership has fluctuated between twenty-five and sixty-five members, including nearly a dozen members still on the roster who have devoted ten years or more of active service.

Youth work has been one of the outstanding activities. For many years, the Club has contributed a small monthly check to the welfare department of the county, and this money has been used to provide spending money for children under the department's care. Sponsorship of baseball leagues, assistance to Boy and Girl Scout units, the annual Hallowe'en Festival, the annual Christmas Party for underprivileged children, and participation in National Kids' Day features have been some of the many projects carried on under this committee.

Cooperation with and support of various farm groups has been another outstanding part of our work through a "Committee on Agriculture and Conservation." In 1949, during the administration of Vinal Hunt, Lowville received the New York District award for the outstanding achievements of this committee.

Due to our proximity to Canada, International Goodwill projects and visits to Canadian Clubs have been frequent. An unusual project during 1951 was the arranging for an exchange of American and Canadian flags, this taking the form of a down-state club-to-club journey of the latter flag, culminating in a plane trip to a Long Island Club by six members of the Lowville Club in November that year.

Dinner meetings of the Club have been held every Tuesday in one of the local hotels.

Only one member of the Lowville Club has ever been chosen to serve in a larger administrative position outside the local area. Each geographic group of clubs is served by a lieutenant governor. O. T. Anderson was selected for lieutenant governor in 1938.

The current president is Fred Sohn.



## Lowville Lodge, No. 134 F. & A. M.

THE FIRST MEETING of Lowville Lodge No. 134, was held May 20, 1848, at Masonic Hall in the Village of Lowville, by virtue of a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. At that communication, the following persons officiated as officers of the Lodge, to wit:

Charles Dayan, Master; A. W. Doig, Senior Warden; Ziba Knox, Junior Warden; James H. Sheldon, Secretary; William Carpenter, Treasurer; D. A. Stewart, Senior Deacon; Thomas Butts, Junior Deacon; John S. Root, Tiler; Henry Hazen and J. Garnsey, Stewards.

The charter of the Lodge was granted by the Grand Lodge of New York, and bears date June 13, 1848. There were twelve charter members, as follows: Ziba Knox, Charles Dayan, John S. Root, Peter Kirley, Joseph Garnsey, A. W. Doig, William Carpenter, Thomas Butts, Henry Hazen, George Jackson, James H. Sheldon and D. A. Stewart.

The first lodge rooms were situated on the second floor of a two-story building on the east side of State Street near the center of the present block now owned by Roy Williams.

In 1856 the Lodge moved to new quarters and occupied the third floor of the building on the west side of State Street now known as the Loisselle block. After the disastrous fire which swept the east side of State Street in 1869, the Lodge and Chapter joined in erecting a third story for their use on the building then being constructed by Austin and Reed. In 1891 the lower stories of the northerly half of this building were purchased. These quarters on the east side of State Street were owned and occupied until the present temple.

The present master is Earl Austin.

### LOWVILLE CHAPTER No. 223, R. A. M.

Lowville Chapter No. 223, Royal Arch Masons, was instituted February 5, 1868, at a meeting of David A. Stewart, Horace Bush, Rev. Charles W. Brooks, Rufus L. Rogers, George J. Mager, L. Warren Scott, George E. Morris and Henry Hareford.

They applied for a dispensation which was presented to Grand High Priest Seymour H. Stone; the dispensation was granted on February 29, 1868.

The first meeting of the new Chapter was held on Monday evening, March 30, 1868, with the following officers:

High Priest, Rufus L. Rogers; King, David A. Stewart; Scribe,

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

Alexander R. Gebbie; Treasurer, Henry Hareford; Secretary, George J. Mager; Captain of Hosts, Horace Bush; Principal Sojourner, L. Warren Scott; Royal Arch Captain, George Mager; Master Third Veil, George E. Morris; Master Second Veil, Henry Hareford; Master First Veil, Charles W. Brooks.

The Chapter warrant was granted on February 3, 1869, at which time the following officers were installed other than above:

Henry E. Turner, Treasurer; V. Lansing Waters, Master First Veil; Charles E. Mitchell, Tiler.

The present high priest is Leo Perrigo.

\* \* \* \*

In 1922 the Lowville Masons, realizing the need for a new home for their more than four hundred members, started a movement for a new and beautiful Masonic Temple.

On October 6, 1922, Lowville Lodge No. 134, F. & A. M., and Lowville Chapter No. 223, R. A. M., united in the purchase of the building adjacent to their quarters on the east side of State Street.

A campaign for funds was launched and \$28,000 was raised on subscriptions payable over a period of five years. The movement developed slowly. Late in 1927 Master Charles H. Arthur appointed a committee to proceed with the work.

On January 6, 1928, the Lodge voted to erect a temple, the work to begin in order that the cornerstone may be laid by Grand Master Harold J. Richardson, a member of the Lodge, during his term of office.

The plans were prepared by Architect R. E. Sluyter, Herkimer, New York. He prepared plans which called for a basement and two-story building of the colonial type, with a frontage of 50 feet and a depth of 120 feet. The plans called for a large Lodge room, spacious lounging rooms, card room, pool and billiard room, banquet hall, cloak rooms, bowling alleys and kitchen.

The new temple was dedicated by M. ' W. ' John A. Dutton, Grand Master, on June 21, 1929.

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*Lowville Masonic Temple*

## Order of The Eastern Star

THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR was organized and held its first meeting on April 23, 1905. The charter was granted to it on November 24, 1905, when the Lodge was officially constituted with the assistance of the Carthage Chapter, who acted as Grand Officers.

Our first matron was Sister Emma Mooney. Our first patron was Alonzo S. Dano, who gave us our name, "Zenith." At this time the Stars met on the third floor of the building next to the present temple.

At the time of our organization, we were in the 23rd District of Lewis-Oneida. At the annual fall session of Grand Chapter in 1917, we were changed to the Jefferson District.

In the second year of its life, Zenith helped constitute Dirigo Chapter at Turin, New York.

We have had several Grand Lodge appointments, but our greatest honor was the election in 1927 of Sister Anna Reed Farrington as Grand Matron of the State of New York. We have had thirteen Grand Officers, seven of whom are living. We have five charter members who are still living. At present our membership is 283, with Dorothea Greene, Matron; William Greene, Patron; Zella Cooke, Secretary and Virginia Geer, Treasurer.

## Loyal Order of Moose

LOWVILLE LODGE No. 589, Loyal Order of Moose, was organized in late November, 1924. Samuel J. Smith from Glens Falls was the organizer. The first board of officers was: Louis Miner, Governor; Hubert McHale, Junior Governor; Raymond Gasser, Past Governor; Frank Waters, Secretary; Leonard Juby, Treasurer; Peter Loren, George Waters, Raymond Bushey, Trustees.

They held their meetings in Firemen's Hall for three months. During this time they leased the third floor in the Leon Miller block, which cost Mr. Miller \$4,700 to remodel for them. These rooms consisted of: dining room, sitting room, kitchen, pool room and the lodge room, which was also used for dance hall and basketball court. About 1930, they purchased one hundred pair of roller skates which furnished entertainment for many young people in this community.

During the past twenty-nine years the Moose have paid over \$6,000 in sick and funeral benefits to their members and dependents. Four dollars per year of each member's dues goes to the Supreme Lodge at Mooseheart to educate, house and teach a trade to children of departed Moose members. Each child is brought up to the religion of their parents. At present we have eleven hundred children of all ages in Mooseheart, Illinois. The Loyal Order of Moose also have a home in Moosehaven, Florida, for their aged members and their wives.

The Moose Lodge has been active in sports, having had baseball, basketball, softball and bowling teams.

In 1926, wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of Moose members organized a ladies' order, under the leadership of Mrs. Raymond Bushey. In the same year, a junior order was formed for boys between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one.

In 1950, the dance hall (in the Miller block) was condemned for public activities under a new fire law. In July of the same year, the Moose Lodge leased the Abe Buff house (formerly the Walter Wise home) on Dayan Street, opposite the Elks Club. At present we are negotiating the purchase of this property.

The present board of officers includes: Weston Schmitt, Governor; Richard Lawrence, Junior Governor; Edwin Lynch, Past Governor; John Beyer, Prelate; Louis Ford, Treasurer; George Lynch, Secretary; Clement Pelo, Michael Virkler, Frank Ward, Trustees.



## The Lowville Civic Club

THE LOWVILLE CIVIC CLUB was organized May 18, 1918, by former members of the Equal Franchise League, for the purpose of mutual improvement and for promoting community interest.

The first officers elected were: Mrs. A. Karl Arthur, President; Mrs. Dorothy Ebersole Reed, First Vice-President; Mrs. Frank McGovern, Second Vice-President; Miss Eleanor Jones, Secretary; Miss Mary Carter, Treasurer and Mrs. MacGregor A. Phillips, Director.

The Club sponsored the first community Christmas out-door services in 1921 by singing carols, accompanied by the Lowville Band, around a tree erected by John Dence at the four corners on State Street. Later a permanent tree was planted in Monument Park, but it did not survive. The present tree was planted by the Lowville Kiwanis Club.

In 1922, and thereafter for fifteen years, the Club paid all expenses of planting and care of a flower bed and shrubbery around the Soldiers' Monument in the park, and a similar flower bed at the corner of Clinton Street and Collins Street, which later was replaced by shrubbery.

The Lowville Civic Club Scholarship Fund was started January 8, 1925, by a gift of \$10 from Miller G. Sherwood, and small contributions from Club members. It has since been under the supervision of Mrs. Miller G. Sherwood and a permanent scholarship committee of eight members. Through wise investments the fund accumulated, so that in 1945 the first scholarship of \$50 was awarded to a senior student of Lowville Academy at the June commencement, and has been awarded annually since then. In May, 1953, Mrs. Sherwood presented a generous gift to the scholarship fund in memory of her husband, Miller G. Sherwood, whose idea and gift of \$10 started the fund. This, together with investments already owned by the Club, made it possible to award a \$100 scholarship to a senior at the June, 1953, commencement, for the first time. This award will now be given annually. Nine scholarships have been awarded to senior students toward a college education. The Club voted at the annual meeting in 1953 to change the name of the Lowville Civic Club Scholarship to the "Sherwood Scholarship" in grateful appreciation and interest of Mrs. Sherwood and her husband.

Since 1943 the Club has given yearly at graduation a \$5 award to the Lowville Academy senior with the highest English mark and a second award of \$3.

Noteworthy contributions have been: furnishing a room in the

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Lewis County General Hospital; purchased a large American flag for the Lowville Academy; purchased a clarinet for the high school orchestra; bought two colonial lanterns for the entrance at the Lowville Free Library, and furnished sums of money twice toward the purchase of uniforms for the Lowville Academy Band.

During World War II the Club sponsored a "Service Club" in the Opera House for members of the armed forces, which was operated and directed entirely by volunteers. Over three thousand service men and women were served. Afterwards the Club planted two blue spruce trees on the Lowville Academy campus in memory of the students who were killed in World War II.

Our Club has been honored by having two of its members elected president of the Northern New York Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. William J. Milligan in 1926 and her daughter, Mrs. William F. O'Hare, in 1946. Another member, Mrs. R. J. Green, honored the Club when as press chairman and recording secretary of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs she was the first club woman from Lewis County to broadcast over the radio from New York City in 1930.

Present officers of the Club are: Mrs. Floyd Osterhaut, President; Mrs. Fred Sohn, First Vice-President; Mrs. Hazel Porter, Second Vice-President; Mrs. J. Yale Moore, Treasurer; Mrs. R. J. Green, Secretary and Mrs. Edward Rittis, Corresponding Secretary. Membership of the Club is thirty-five.

## The Lowville Current Topics Club

THE CURRENT TOPICS CLUB of Lowville is Lewis County's oldest federated club and one of the first in the State organized for the sole purpose of studying current events. It began during the winter of 1911-12, when one evening a week a small group of women took their mending and met at each other's homes for a two hour session. At first each one brought an article which had interested her, but later it seemed better to have one member present a subject currently in the news and ask the others to take part in discussing it.

Early members included Mrs. William Barney, Mrs. Frank Bowman, Mrs. Philip S. Fowler, Miss Minnie Hough, Mrs. Romeyn Hough, Miss Nellie House, Mrs. Marion King, Mrs. Frank McGovern, and Mrs. Ray Smiley. Later, in the history of the Northern Federation occur the names of several members of Current Topics Club, in particular those of Miss Alice Allen, poet laureate, and Mrs. Harvey Farrington, a past president.

Current Topics is not a money-raising club, but depends entirely upon its dues for funds. Nevertheless, throughout its existence members have been active in all worthy civic projects, especially during the two world wars, and the Club has given its financial support to all national and local fund-raising drives.

Because of its informality Current Topics Club has established few traditions, but present-day members carry on in much the same way as its founders did, and enjoy the same feeling of pleasant companionship shared by the first group in those earlier days.

## Lowville Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

LOWVILLE CHAPTER of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized June 14, 1905, with the following fifteen charter members: Mrs. Henry Phillips who was the first regent; Mrs. Edward Fowler, Mrs. C. Fred Boshart, Miss Maude Arthur, Miss Elizabeth Arthur, Miss Nellie House, Mrs. William Stevens, Mrs. Emma B. Mooney, Mrs. William Hart, Mrs. Oscar Price, Mrs. Mary B. Ross, Miss Sarah Waters, Mrs. Mary L. Chambers, Mrs. Charles Wetmore, Miss May Wilcox.

The objects of the Daughters of the American Revolution are to "perpetuate the memory and the spirit of the men and women who achieved American independence; to promote the development of an enlightened public opinion; to foster patriotic citizenship; to live a patriotism of willing service; to love our country across all barriers of human frailty with a generous dedication to the common good."

During the first twenty-five years of its existence the Lowville D. A. R. placed bronze D. A. R. markers on the graves of all known Revolutionary soldiers in Lewis County. Among these was the grave of Capt. Isaac Clinton, great-grandfather of Mrs. William Howard Taft, wife of the then President Taft.

D. A. R. Citizenship manuals in several languages have been given to school libraries throughout the county. Silk flags and manuals are presented to new citizens when they receive their final citizenship papers. In recent years a large U. S. flag was presented to Constable Hall, and another was given to the Lewis County General Hospital.

For many years the Lowville D. A. R. presented money prizes to the best history pupil in the Academy. Each year one outstanding girl in the Lowville High School is presented a Good Citizenship pin. For some time the Chapter has given \$10 in prizes to the girl homemakers' class at the Lowville Academy and Central School, and each year sponsors their style and budget show.

The Lowville Chapter, D. A. R., was largely instrumental in starting the Lowville Free Library and by means of annual military euchre parties, teas, and so forth, raised approximately \$6,000 for the building fund.

## Rebekahs and Nokomis Rebekah Lodge, No. 186, Lowville, N. Y.

NOKOMIS REBEKAH LODGE No. 186, Lowville, New York, was instituted March 17, 1897, at Castorland, New York, where an Odd Fellows Lodge then convened. One of the charter members, Mrs. Mamie Schlieder Ryan Pate, now lives in Florida. A fire in Castorland which destroyed the mill which was not rebuilt, caused some members to move away. In time, it also caused the Odd Fellows to give up their charter. Some united with Carthage and some with Copenhagen. But the Rebekahs decided to ask permission to join with Lowville Lodge No. 759, I. O. O. F. of Lowville. A year passed before permission was granted and on November 7, 1902, they moved their charter to Lowville and by much hard work they soon built up the Lodge to 166 members.

Lowville Lodge No. 759, Lowville, was instituted June 3, 1896, and held meetings on the third floor of the Roscoe Block on State Street. Suppers and banquets were served in the balcony. Later they acquired and rented a kitchen, dining, club and recreation room, along with the large main hall, which the Rebekahs had the privilege of using. This spacious lodge hall with its hardwood floor and two entrances made a favorite and convenient place for many banquets and dancing parties for years.

Nokomis Rebekah Lodge, with the assembly president and others, instituted a Theta Rho Girls' Club March 18, 1935, called "Lowvalley No. 50." After a few years they disbanded and several girls joined Nokomis Lodge.

A Past Noble Grand Club of Nokomis Lodge was formed in May, 1938, and they help to advise the Lodge; also assist in small community projects.

Nokomis dedicated and displayed in the Hall, a Service Flag in June, 1944, made by one of its members, with thirty-six stars attached, for relatives in the Service.

Nokomis honored two fifty-year members in September, 1953; one with continuous membership and the other transferred from Copenhagen Rebekah Lodge.

Past Noble Grand Associations throughout the State carry on various patriotic drives and help the State Assembly President with



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many projects. Funds are raised for the support and maintenance of several homes of the Order, and the educational foundation fund, as well as community work. Thousands of dollars were given to the Emergency War Relief Fund.

Lowville Lodge, I.O.O.F., consolidated with Copenhagen I.O.O.F. January 1, 1949, but Nokomis Rebekah members continued to rent their rooms until 1951 when they purchased a home on Rural Avenue East where they are presently located. Their meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at eight o'clock.

## Lowville Women's Christian Temperance Union

THE LOWVILLE Women's Christian Temperance Union was organized in September, 1887, almost sixty-seven years ago. Some of the women interested during the early years were: Mrs. D. D. Dean, wife of the pastor of the Baptist Church, Mrs. Jennie I. Lewis, Mrs. M. B. O'Donnell, Mrs. Martin Sackett, Mrs. Henry Bronnell, Mrs. Frank E. Miller, Mrs. Mary Hulsizer, Mrs. Permelia Hews, Mrs. R. R. Pennock, Mrs. Esther Boshart, Mrs. A. C. Burdick, Mrs. Jennie Johnson, and others.

At one time the Union had its own headquarters in the block now occupied by the Watertown Mattress Co. and owned by Mr. A. Stoddard. Later, they moved to the Horace Bush block. In these rooms many public suppers were held.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union has always been interested in children and youth, trying to steer them from the evils of alcohol. Many Medal Contests were held through the years and medals given for the best orations. There have been large children's organizations of the Loyal Temperance Legion, led by faithful women; also large groups of Youth Temperance Councils, formerly known as Young People's Branches. This latter organization was started in Lowville by Miss Helen G. H. Estelle, Youth leader of the State at that time and now N. Y. State President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. This organization had as many as fifty young people in its membership at one time. A large State Convention of the Y. P. B. was held in Lowville when this group was at its best. No doubt many total abstainers in Lowville today were members of these various groups during the years.

The local Women's Christian Temperance Union has had a tent on the fairgrounds for a great many years during Fair time, sometimes being a great asset in many ways—serving ice water, taking care of packages, looking after babies and serving as a resting place for the aged.

For the last fourteen years the local Union has done much temperance educational work in the Lowville Academy. The first year a very fine program was put on by the senior class for the entire High School. Then there were poster contests for several years and prizes given for best and second best, and an exhibit placed in the window of the Power

and Light Company. Later, a whole day was set aside and the whole school given temperance educational instructions. Starting with the kindergarten, up through fifth grades, flannelgraph talks were given and a treat of chocolate milk and cookies given each child. For the Junior High there were slide films and movies and for the Senior High movies and various speakers, one being a member of the Alcholics Anonymous. The day was climaxed with a large reception in the school gym where a beautiful table was prepared by the Home Economic girls and two kinds of punch and chocolate milk and cookies served. Many posters were on display and one year we had a small mechanical man, which was a great curiosity to the children. Bill Sawin, who happened to be packing the little man for his return trip, was asked by a small boy, "Mister, where did you get Charlie McCarthy?" and Bill replied, "Mr. Bergen loaned him to us." The little boy went away happy.

Thousands of pieces of all kinds of temperance literature were distributed through the years, suitable for all ages of children. We shall never know just what influence these temperance days had on the boys and girls, but much seed was sown and no doubt will reap a harvest. These programs were all held under the Scientific Temperance Educational Department of which Mrs. William W. Sawin, wife of the pastor of the Baptist Church, is chairman. Presidents who have served during the last fifteen years are Mrs. Hazel McOmber, Mrs. Ida McPhilly, Mrs. William McBain and Mrs. Olive Tyner. Much hard work and financial backing went into these school programs.

## Lewis County Agricultural Society

IN THE YEAR 1820, under an act of the legislature passed in the year 1819, the first agricultural society for Lewis County was formed. The first Lewis County Fair was held in the old academy on the site of the old stone church in Lowville village, October 23, 1821, at which premiums to the amount of over \$300 were awarded. Members were furnished with a badge formed of ears of wheat and were worn like a cockade upon the hats. The festival ended with a ball at Wells' Tavern, in what is now the Village of Lowville, and nearly one hundred couples attended. The last fair of the old Agricultural Society was held in 1824.

An association called "An Association for the Improvement of the Breed of Horses" was organized in 1831, and held one or two annual fairs.

A Lewis County Agricultural Society was formed on the 21st day of June, 1841, under the laws of that year, and annual fairs were held by this society.

On December 27, 1859, "The Lewis County Agricultural Society" was reorganized under chapter 425 of the laws of 1855. Prior to 1871 the county fairs were held at different places in the county—Denmark, Lowville, West Martinsburgh, Turin and Constableville. Since 1871 the county fairs have been held at Lowville.

In January, 1876, the site where the fairs are now held, called Forest Park, a very appropriate name, was purchased by the society. Prior to this the fairs were held on grounds in the southerly part of the village. The present site cost \$3,150 originally, and included about fifteen acres of land. The sum of \$560 was spent for fencing, \$2,609 for buildings, \$99 for conduit and reservoir, \$28.50 for insurance, \$1,017 for grubbing and ditching, making the first expense \$7,467.50. It was mortgaged to the amount of \$5,450. Many new buildings have been built and the grounds improved and beautified until they are now in fine condition. The grounds contain many fine shade trees and Forest Park is now one of the finest parks for holding agricultural fairs in Northern New York. County fairs are held there annually, attended by large multitudes of people, who look upon the Lewis County Fair as a place of pleasure, amusement and instruction, where they meet their friends and neighbors and have a good time generally.

The current president is Cyril L. Seymour.

## Lowville Grange, No. 71

A SOCIAL, fraternal, educational organization, the Grange motto is: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." Since its beginning, its major aim has been to "Educate and elevate the American farmer." Non-partisan, non-sectarian, faith in God and loyalty to our government of the United States are basic. The Bible and the United States flag occupy central positions in our Grange home. Lowville Grange has helped create such values as rural free delivery, parcel post, better roads, agricultural schools, colleges, and Lewis County Farm and Home Bureaus.

On February 4, 1874, in the Court House, Lowville, with fourteen farmers and wives present, Lowville Grange was organized. Hon. J. C. Tamblin, Deputy New York State Grange, presided. Duane Davenport, Master, and George Fowler, Lecturer, were among elected officers. From this small beginning, the membership has grown to 436.

Dormant between 1875-1887, meetings were then held in homes. In 1888 the Good Templar rooms over the Black River Bank were rented; later meetings were held in the Easton block. In 1912 the present building, an old school house, was purchased. In 1923 the hall was enlarged; improved several times, it is attractive, convenient, a center of community activities.

The following have served as masters: Duane Davenport, William Boshart, Ira Sharp, Marcellus Wilcox, Ezra Stanford, William Stevens, William Windecker, Bion Arthur, Charles Reed, Jonas Wilcox, Howard Ross, Charles Bassett, Emory Curtis, Myron Lyman, Lewis Boshart, Louis Archer, Harley Stanton, Fred Loucks, Abel Boshart, Orrin Ross, Warren Arthur, Harold Boshart, Pearce Schwendy, Robert Jones, Arno Denning, Arthur Stanton, Robert Boshart, Raymond Gordon.

In 1919 memorized degree work, drills and tableaux started with Miss Maude Arthur as degree mistress. The fiftieth anniversary was celebrated in 1924. Over two hundred members have received Silver Star Certificates for 25-year membership; 24 Golden Sheaf awards for 50-year service. Various State Grange awards, Lecture hour, Model Grange, Community Service, have been received. On June 11, 1926, Lowville Juvenile Grange was organized.

Lowville has aided worthwhile activities, such as: Martinsburg School Fair, Lewis County Fair Association, Lowville library, rural school prize-speaking contests, Red Cross, Infantile Paralysis, Muscular Dystrophy, Cancer Fund, American Bible Society, Testament



## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

League, Freedom Train. During World War I, fourteen large boxes, bedding and clothing were shipped overseas. Later, two cases of evaporated milk were sent the starving in Europe. The hall and enthusiastic work of members have been volunteered five times for the Red Cross Bloodmobile, with a total of 588 pints of blood donated. Name plates for mail boxes, park benches for Memorial Park, Civil Defense Survey, Future Farmers' prize speaking contest, are features of work. Grange women sew for hospital, Cancer Society and Lewis County Health Association. In 1953 a private room in Lewis County General Hospital was refurnished with Simmons furniture.

Members officially connected with New York State Grange have been: Mrs. William Stevens, Woman's Work Committee; Mrs. Ira Sharp, Mrs. Earl Stanton, State Flora; Home Economics Committee, State Flora, State Lecturer, Elizabeth Arthur; Chairman Executive Committee twenty-two years, Ira Sharp; Deputy State Master ten years, Louis Archer; Board of Directors G. L. F., Orrin Ross.

Woven in the fabric of its years are the character, endurance, integrity and wholesomeness that make for lasting growth.

## The Lewis Co. Farm Bureau Organization

THE FIRST RECORD of any action toward a Farm Bureau in Lewis County was a meeting called in the Grange Hall at Lowville on November 14, 1912, by C. Fred Boshart. This meeting voted to form an organization to be known as the Lewis County Farm Improvement Association. Among the signers were: C. Fred Boshart, C. S. Reed, W. W. Stevens, A. H. Stiles, J. A. Satterly, P. H. Sage, R. E. Gregg, M. M. Lyman, D. C. Markham, C. F. Pitcher, C. Bion Arthur, Orrin Ross, Wm. F. H. Breeze, F. R. Spaulding, F. E. VanArnam, W. G. Barney, E. B. Curtis and B. J. Hatmaker.

In January, 1918, a meeting was called by E. M. Sheldon, Assemblyman. This meeting went on record as resolved that the Home Defense Committee favor a properly organized Farm Bureau, and expressed its belief that the work of a Farm Bureau can be of value and importance in food production and conservation, and as such an important factor in aiding toward winning the war. At that time there were somewhat over two hundred members of the Improvement Association. They voted to turn their funds over to the new Farm Bureau organization and the following officers for the Farm Bureau Association were elected: Ira Sharp, President; H. J. Richardson, Vice-President; Edward M. Sheldon, Secretary; J. H. Ross, Treasurer. The minutes of this meeting were signed by J. H. Ross.

Evidently the organization formed at this time was somewhat temporary, for a meeting called by Mr. Sharp in May, 1918, for the formation of a permanent Farm Bureau Association was discussed. The meeting was addressed by F. E. Robertson, then assistant county agent leader. A nominating committee (composed of A. M. Seymour, Alson D. Weller, J. W. Rohr, F. J. Guepe, F. P. Honer and A. L. Marcellus) recommended the election of the following officers: Ira C. Sharp, President; Glenn S. Roberts, Vice-President; J. H. Ross, Secretary-Treasurer and Directors H. J. Richardson, George C. Cannon, N. W. Salmons, and Philip Beyer. These were elected.

Of three candidates for the job of county agricultural agent, A. D. Davies, formerly county assistant agent in Herkimer County, was accepted. Four hundred members of the new Farm Bureau organization were reported for 1919. Mr. Davies served the organization until 1922 when he was succeeded by Mr. J. C. Otis. Mr. Otis worked for the organization from 1922 until February of 1933. In the fall of 1932, during an economy drive, the County Board of Supervisors did not

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

appropriate any money for the Farm Bureau. The office was closed until July, 1936, when Earl C. Branche was sent from the State College of Agriculture to assist the Executive Committee in the administration of the agricultural conservation program. Mr. Branche worked until 1942 when he was succeeded by Joe Pendergast. Following Mr. Pendergast during 1944 and 1954 were Mr. Robert, William Allen, Noel Jackson, Ed Lawrence and Charles Stansbury.

In 1947, during Mr. Jackson's service, the first assistant agent, Charles Stansbury, was hired. He worked as assistant to Noel Jackson and Ed Lawrence and was hired to succeed Ed Lawrence as county agricultural agent. In his place as assistant, Joel Nordholm was hired and he was succeeded by Joe Narrow.

During all this time, a succession of able men generously gave their time and talents to the work of the Farm Bureau organization. The names of those who served on the Executive Committee are listed, but space does not permit the addition of the names of others who served on equally vital committees and township organizations. It is these men who really make the Lewis County Farm Bureau organization determine its policy and the successes it may have achieved from year to year.

Membership grew from the small beginnings to over 1,300 members shortly after the war. In line with a reduction of the number of farms and farm operators, membership has declined in recent years to a point just below a thousand members where it now is. This represents about 85% of the active commercial dairy farms in the county.

## Lewis County Home Bureau

### THE BEGINNING . . .

THROUGH THE EFFORTS of A. B. Davies, Farm Bureau manager, a group of Lewis County women became interested in the Home Bureau during the spring of 1920. On November 23, 1920, at the annual meeting of the Farm Bureau, the county women held a separate session and elected a Board of Directors. The Lewis County Home Bureau thereby came into existence.

At roll call there were 562 members and at the end of that year membership totaled 798.

The Home Bureau began to participate in the county fair that very first year. They established a nursery for children; started a parcel check stand; and displayed labor saving devices such as the iceless refrigerator, dress forms, fireless cookers, a pressure canner, bread mixer and a tea wagon. The milk bar began that year with the purpose of supplying a nutritious beverage on the fair grounds.

In addition to the county wide projects each Home Bureau group was urged to establish and maintain something of value to the general public in the community. A few of the projects which the Home Bureau units instituted were community rest rooms, community libraries, summer care of cemeteries, pouring of cement sidewalks, recreational activities, school hot lunch programs, and oiling dirt roads. During these early years the people showed an intense eagerness for learning as is indicated by their participation and cooperation.

### THE DEPRESSION . . .

The depression was not felt in Lewis County until the summer of 1932, and in 1933 the appropriations for both the Farm Bureau and the Home Bureau were lost. The women would not accept defeat and ten units continued to meet and carry on activities for three years. Every year they carried their petition to the Board of Supervisors for a renewal of the appropriation. In 1936 reorganization was affected and the appropriations for Farm and Home Bureau work were made with the stipulation that each agent devote a part of her time to Junior Extension work. This dual participation was found to be ineffective and in 1938 the Home Demonstration Agent again began to devote full time to adult work.

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

### THE WAR YEARS...

The population shift from the county to defense plants and to the Armed Forces, in addition to the rationing of food, gasoline and tires, caused the Home Bureau program to be limited. Projects such as remodeling garments, remodeling lampshades, and furnishings were most helpful when the new things could not be purchased. Emphasis was placed on good nutrition for families in spite of rationing. A minute man program was established in which key persons in communities were contacted with information on rationing, savings bonds, farm labor, etc. These key persons passed along the information to their neighbors. Home Bureau members entertained service men from Pine Camp in their homes and cooperated with the USO. The family life projects designed to help people understand themselves and be happier folks were especially helpful during this period. As the war years came to a close there was an increased interest in home freezers, and frozen foods.

### THE POST WAR PERIOD . . .

In an expanding economy, the Home Bureau program has also expanded to include projects in clothing, grooming, child development and family relationships, food and nutrition, home management, health and safety, housing and design, citizenship, floriculture and crafts. This variety in program is especially necessary because of the increased membership (1,030 in 1953) and the age span (18 to 85). Cooperation with community organizations such as the Lewis County Health Association and the State Adult Education Program has helped make this varied program possible. The importance of community activities has been felt by Home Bureau units since 1920 and they continue to care for the sick and needy and to carry out projects for the benefit of the general public. Educational exhibits are set up each year at the county fair by Home Bureau units. The Milk Bar at the Lewis County Fair is still continuing in its original purpose—to furnish a nutritious beverage on the fair grounds.



## 4-H Club Work in Lewis County

4-H CLUB WORK in Lewis County had its meager beginnings about 1927, when it was sponsored under the Farm and Home Bureau Departments. Looking back through their records, it is evident that 4-H Club work was only in its infancy at that time. It is noted that the goal for 1928 was to secure at least ten dairy members and twenty-five forestry members. No other mention of projects is made. It is interesting also to note that the big emphasis was on the forestry project.

Contrasting this with some twenty-five years later, the forestry project is only a very small part of the 4-H Club program and there are nearly twice as many forestry members today as in those earlier days.

The County Agricultural Agent and County Home Demonstration Agents did 4-H Club work as part of their regular program; they were required to spend one-third of their time doing 4-H work. From the number of clubs, it is probably very doubtful that a third of their time was spent on 4-H Club work. That is very typical of the thinking twenty-five years ago, when more emphasis was placed on the adult work in agriculture than on the junior work. 4-H Club work in those days was called junior extension work and very generally treated in that same capacity.

Some ten years after the beginning of 4-H Club work, we note that there are ten organized 4-H Clubs in the county, with a total membership of about 235 members. Up until this time, nearly all the 4-H work has been done with boys, in fact, in 1937 there were only four girls enrolled. Completions of projects is also interesting. All four of the girls completed their projects while only one-third of the boys completed their projects. The following year, in 1938, the Home Demonstration Agent's job was to spend one-third of her time on 4-H work and 4-H work seemed to progress more rapidly.

In 1938, a full-time 4-H Club agent was hired. The first 4-H Club agent in Lewis County was Mr. Sweet. With the coming of a full-time 4-H Club agent, there was a much greater variation of project work in the county and a lot more emphasis was put on other activities such as demonstration work, county dress revue, exhibiting and educational work and trips. Mr. Sweet was in the county for four and a half years and he left here in 1942 to go to Wyoming County. Mr. Henry Krebsner was the next 4-H Club agent in Lewis County and he stayed

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

through April, 1945. After six months lapse with no agent, Mr. Fred McCloskey came into the county and has been here ever since.

The size of enrollment, the number of clubs and projects have continued to increase throughout the years until today over twenty clubs have memberships of about 600. Projects have also greatly increased. Projects are carried out in dairying, pigs, sheep, ducks, turkeys, chickens, potatoes, gardening, rabbits, farm mapping, raspberries, strawberries, fire prevention, outdoor cooking, junior leadership, home grounds improvement, first aid, forestry, farm work project, agricultural engineering (tractor maintenance-shop), and all home-making projects.

Helping to build better citizens in the community is the main goal in 4-H work. The 4-H Club pledge tells how:

I Pledge: My head to clearer thinking.  
My hands to larger service.  
My health to better living,  
For my club, my community and my country.

## Boy Scouts of America

SCOUTING IN LOWVILLE is a story of the individuals who made it possible. Men like D. E. Griffith, Clarence Hulbert and Rev. O. T. Anderson have been associated with the movement for many years, but one man was present at the beginning of Scouting in Lowville, and until very recently has been in active service in some capacity or other throughout its long history here. G. Byron Bowen can truly be said to be the guiding spirit of Scouting in Lowville. He became interested in the Lord Baden-Powell book on Scouting for Boys in 1910. There was no active unit of Scouts in Lowville until 1916 when Rev. Russell of the First Presbyterian Church started a troop. The boys of this troop helped in the collections, bond drives, etc. of World War I, and also had a fine camping experience at Lake Brantingham in the summer of 1917. Mr. Bowen went along as assistant leader.

These early groups were affiliated directly with the National organization.

Lyman Williams became the first Eagle Scout in Lowville, in the old Troop No. 1.

After the war was over Mr. Bowen resumed his interest in Scouting activities, acting as assistant to Dr. Vogeler.

At this time the troop had several excellent summer camping trips. Byron Bowen led his troop to camp at Lake Brantingham for several years and one year at Beaver Lake. "Kelly" Finn, troop jester, kept them laughing at his impromptu show at this Beaver Lake camp. "Russ" Nortz and "Splash" MacAndrews got lost that year, too. One of the Brantingham Lake camps was attended by thirty-two boys, who enjoyed the cooking of George Oatman. All went well that year until the transportation arrived to go home. The trouble was that there was one car short and the two Bowen boys, Byron and Richard, had to walk home.

Sponsorship of Troop No. 1, Lowville, changed hands considerably, with the Kiwanis Club, American Legion and citizens' groups taking turns. In 1929 one troop became too bulky and two troops were formed, Nos. 38 and 39, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and the American Legion respectively.

In 1931 the two troops were disbanded and replaced by three troops, Nos. 68, 70 and 71, sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church and St. Peter's Church, in that order. They have been in continuous existence since then. Mr. Bowen was again active

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

in this reorganization, being Scout Master of Troop No. 68. Other Scout Masters of this troop have been Fred A. Young, Guy P. Thomas, Rev. O. T. Anderson and currently W. J. Thomas.

Troop No. 70 has been almost continuously under the guidance of Clarence T. Hulbert, with a number of assistants through the years.

Troop No. 71 has been led by Rev. John McNamara, Lyle Truck, Fred Keib and Donald Anderson, and others interested in Scouting.

Scouting has lately branched out to take in younger boys. Cub packs have been organized by the Presbyterian Church groups and St. Peter's Church. Cub pack No. 68 is the only one now active.

A singular honor was accorded a Lowville Scout when Jack Singer was presented the National Court of Honor award for heroism in August, 1953, for saving the life of a girl who nearly drowned.

The list of Eagle Scouts in Lowville is quite impressive; it is as follows:

Troop No. 1—Lyman M. Williams.

Troop No. 70—Howard Ross, William S. Easton, Orrin Ross and Kenneth Snyder.

Troop No. 71 — John O'Connell, William Whalen and James O'Connell.

Troop No. 68—Donald Ramage, W. J. Thomas, J. J. Ramage, Harvey Humphrey, Bruce Ramage, Dickinson Griffith, Jr., William O'Hare, Frederick Parker and John Chapin.

The present Scout enrollment is 143.

## Girl Scouts

GIRL SCOUTING helps the average girl to uncover not only her own abilities and tastes, but to correlate these with what there is in the world that she can do and be.

The Girl Scout Troop I was organized in Lowville by Miss Emma Goeke on January 8, 1931, with thirty-four members.

Within a year's time Scouting had grown rapidly until there were four troops with six of the Lowville teachers actively engaged in it. This same year a representative from National Headquarters came to acquaint the four troops with the purposes and activities of the Girl Scout organization through dramatization and explanation. Leaders from headquarters made yearly visits if possible; otherwise, the leaders and members of the council would attend training sessions in near-by cities.

The Golden Eaglet Award was received by two members of original Troop I on April 28, 1939. This was the highest award for a Girl Scout to receive. Since that time the award has been awarded several girls.

Brownie Scouts were organized in October, 1943, with a group of forty-four girls. Brownie Scouts are the youngest Girl Scouts—between the ages of seven and ten.

The Girl Scout Council works with the troops in organizing troops, obtaining leaders, operating camps, raising money and many other things.

A financial drive was started in 1947. Prior to this time any money needed for sending leaders to Camp Edith Macy, located at Briarcliff, New York, and to pay for representatives from National Headquarters, was raised by bake sales. Camp Edith Macy was attended by two leaders in 1938 and by one leader in 1946.

In 1946 the Girl Scout Council of Lowville adopted its constitution. The next year they received liability insurance coverage. In April, 1949, they became known as the Girl Scout Council of Lowville, New York, Incorporated. They became incorporated so that land could be owned for scouting purposes.

In 1949 Mrs. Oliver Judson deeded about two acres of land by Roaring Brook about four miles from Lowville. "Camp Talahi"—an Indian name meaning happiness—was the name chosen for the camp. The Lowville Kiwanis Club built a lean-to and picnic tables. Permission was granted by the nearby neighbors allowing a pipe line to run



## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

from the spring so water could be used on the camp site. The camp was opened for a three-week period for day camping from July 11-August 3, 1949. The Girl Scouts have had the opportunity to enjoy four weeks of day camping each year since. Insurance on the property was taken out in December, 1949.

The troops have participated in various projects during their scouting years to promote friendship with the needy in our own community as well as other countries.

A Girl Scout troop is for fun, friendship and fine living. Girl Scouts learn the best ways to live, to play and to help others.

It is through the untiring efforts of the leaders and members of Council that Girl Scouting has made a success in Lowville. Thanks is appreciated by these people through the enjoyment girls have gotten out of scouting; and, the good foundation they have received through scouting which developed them for their later life.

## The Black River Canal

THE CONTRACT was let November 11, 1837, and marked the victory over the inertia of State Legislatures that had dallied with the project ever since 1825 when Gov. Clinton had proposed it.

Work began immediately, but the original ten years allowed for completion lengthened into eighteen before the canal finally joined Black River at Lyons Falls, and several more passed and the heyday of its usefulness was done before the river itself was made adequately navigable. The first estimated appropriation of \$100,000 expanded into four million before the last lock was laid. At its completion the four-million-dollar baby provided 92 navigable miles, including 5 miles along Beaver River, and boats were raised 693 feet by 70 locks.

The first boat came up the canal from Rome in 1850, but we know nothing further of its history beyond the christening voyage. There were several steamers, however, that led adventurous lives according to historical anecdote. The *Cornelia*, built in Carthage by Paul Boynton at a cost of \$6,000, was the first large steamer to grace the canal. On its first trip southward it lodged on a sandbar in the river at Lowville and no amount of pushing by the crew could get it off. Later it was nearly swamped at High Falls when the skipper, who wanted to show off the agility of the boat in rough water, forced it too near the falls. The Black River Steamboat Company, formed at Lowville, built the *L. R. Lyon* steamer at Lyons Falls, at a cost of \$8,000, but the boat was ill-fated, for it caught fire soon after and burned.

These locks are worth investigating today. They are smooth gray stone set in enormous squares as neatly joined in mounting steps as the day they were made. Their builders must have worked with an eye on eternity, for nothing short of an earthquake or an aerial bombardment could dislodge them.

Rich in anecdote, redolent of history, the canal is a silent reminder of the lusty days of development when the north country was still the "great wilderness" and its wealth of timber poured from the forests in a never-ceasing supply. It served its purpose though its life was brief. Sawmills and tanneries sprang up along its banks. Twelve million feet of lumber were shipped annually. The products of the great dairies moved steadily down to the city.

An estimate of the business tonnage made in 1825 through a survey of different parts of the county, was distributed as follows: Denmark, 1,272 tons; Lowville, 1,310 tons (comprising grain, flour, ashes, butter

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

and cheese); Martinsburg, 1,280 tons; Turin, 600 tons; Leyden, Watson, Pinckney and Harrisburg, 5,662 tons.

Several efforts to secure the Black River Canal before 1837 died of economic mal-nutrition. George Brayton, Isaac Clinton, Levi Adams, Peter Schuyler and Vincent LeRay de Chaumont tried to incorporate a stock company with \$400,000 but the stock was not taken up, and the proposition failed. Local citizens finally decided to let the State assume the financial burden, and it was largely due to the efforts of Francis Segar, Senator from Lewis County, and Charles Dayan, Assemblyman, that the act was finally pushed through the Legislature in 1836.

Barely twenty-five years after its completion, the State Legislature in 1875 was discussing the advisability of abandoning the canal as unprofitable and a drain on the treasury.

State Highway Route 12 now partially follows the canal bed between Lyons Falls and Boonville.

\* \* \* \*

The Utica and Beaver River Railroad first reached Lowville on October 30, 1867, where its terminus remained until September, 1871, when the railroad was extended to Carthage.

HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE



*Lewis County Court House and Clerk's Office*



*New York Central Railroad Station*

## Lowville and Beaver River Railroad Company

Incorporated September 17, 1903; Capitalized at \$150,000.

Promotor—Gilbert A. Blackmen who afterwards was general manager, director and secretary.

Officers and directors for the first year were: Charles P. Leonard, President; James P. Lewis, Vice-President; Frederick McCulloch, Secretary; Frederick S. Easton, Treasurer.

Construction Contractors—Frederick S. Easton, Jr., and James P. Brownell

Began Business—January 15, 1906

Road Constructed—Lowville, New York to Croghan, New York, a distance of 10.44 miles

Freight Service—New Bremen, Beaver Falls and Croghan

Industries Served—Milk and cheese plants, feed mills and paper mills

Passenger Service—To stations Ridge Road, Farney's Crossing (now known as Ham Street), New Bremen, Capidon, Beaver Falls and Croghan

Highlights of Passenger Service—Excursions to Croghan on special occasions, part of the equipment being flat cars trimmed with cedar and bunting. Also transported the Lowville Fire Department to Croghan at the time of Croghan's big fire.

First Train Crew—Daniel Clark, engineer; Philip Smith, fireman; Walter Goldthrite, conductor; C. Benjamin Roth, brakeman; Martin F. Just, baggageman and express messenger

Remarkable Record of Long Service—Arthur S. Artz who helped to build the road, served in many capacities in its operation and is still employed as its road master.

Dividends have been paid each year, except one, since 1925, amounting to \$101,160.

Present Officers—Fay L. Parker, President; Julius Farney, Vice-President; Joseph M. Russum, Treasurer; Milton E. Burhans, Secretary and Superintendent.

Present Directors—Fay L. Parker, Julius Farney, N. E. Merrell, G. Byron Bowen, H. Northam Haberer, Varner M. Lyman, John D. Dence, DeWitt C. LeFevre, James P. Lewis, Norman J. Farney, Norbert V. Steiner



## Telephone Service Enjoyed for More Than Half a Century

ONE OF THE MODERN NECESSITIES OF LIFE, telephone service, has been enjoyed by residents in this area for more than fifty years, according to the records of the General Telephone Company of Upstate New York, Inc. Originally, telephone service was furnished by the Black River Telephone Company which was incorporated in Boonville way back in January, 1900. Many of the older inhabitants of this area will probably remember Mr. J. J. Domser who served the Company in the capacities of general manager and vice-president from its incorporation until September, 1930, more than two years after it had become a subsidiary of the Glen Telephone Company.

Almost equally well known was Mr. Charles W. Pratt who first served the Black River Company as treasurer in 1902, then as president from 1906 until June, 1928, when he was succeeded by Mr. George Green of the Glen Company organization.

Few people know that the Black River Company succeeded an even earlier organization, the Constableville & West Leyden Telephone Company which was incorporated February 20, 1899. The early records do not reveal that this forerunner ever rendered service to the public but it did accept a franchise from the City of Rome, New York.

Like practically all the independent (non-Bell) telephone companies, the Black River Company suffered many financial growing pains in the early days. In fact, it appeared at one time that the Company was in grave danger of complete collapse as an issue of stock publicly offered could not be sold even at a discount. However, the Company managed to borrow the needed funds and shortly thereafter began to show signs of improving its financial position.

By the end of 1910, the Company had 79 employees and served nearly 2,700 subscribers. It was interconnected with the New York Telephone Company, thus providing its local subscribers with toll service to practically all important areas in the country. In that year the Company had purchased the Fulton Chain Telephone and Telegraph Company and was serving subscribers in Lowville, Adams, Pulaski, Eagle Bay, Old Forge, Remsen, Henderson, West Leyden, Constableville, Ellisburg, Forestport, Boonville, Lyons Falls, Lacona and Mannsville.

Although the Black River Company has always been regarded as

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

an independent (non-Bell) company, the records show that in 1915 the New York Telephone Company owned a substantial interest in the Company and a campaign was put on to encourage Black River employees to buy American Telephone and Telegraph Company common stock.

Expansion of the area served continued and several small companies were purchased. Some operated full-fledged exchanges, such as Blue Mountain Lake, Long Lake and Newcomb, while others seem to have been service line operations, such as Boonville Mutual Telephone Company and the Remsen Telephone Exchange.

Mr. Louis H. Meyer, President of the now General Telephone Company of Upstate New York, Inc., which presently serves this area, began his telephone career when in 1927 he was appointed auditor for the Black River Company.

On January 1, 1934, the Black River Company became the Lowville District of the Upstate Telephone Corporation of New York, which name was adopted by the Glen Telephone Company as more appropriate after it had acquired the Black River Telephone Company, the North Creek & Chestertown Telephone Company and the Walker Telephone Company which served Luzerne and Hadley, New York.

In 1935 the Upstate Corporation became a part of the General Telephone System which now is the largest independent group in the country, serving more than 1,700,000 stations in 21 states. The corporate name of our local Company was changed in 1952 to the present General Telephone Company of Upstate New York, Inc.

The expansion and growth of telephone service in the Lowville District has continued over the years. All the smaller exchanges, and one of the larger ones, have been converted to modern dial operated equipment. Nearly 11,800 subscribers are being served through the network of local and toll lines. The entire system represents an investment of over \$3,039,800 which is approximately \$258 per station served.

## Black River National Bank

ON MAY 31, 1879, a group of men met to organize a bank which they felt could offer a needed service to the people of Lowville, which at that time was a thriving village of 2,800 residents.

As a result of this meeting The Black River National Bank of Lowville was started. The incorporators included—Dewitt C. West, Charles P. Leonard, Frederick S. Easton, V. Lansing Waters, Charles W. Pratt, Oscar P. Hadcock, Farnam J. Bowen, Leonard C. Davenport, George House, Curtis Bowen, William L. Babcock, Ansel Foster, Daniel Whitaker, Alex R. Gebbie and E. S. Merrell. The first Board of Directors was made up of—Dewitt C. West, V. Lansing Waters, Charles P. Leonard, Charles W. Pratt, Oscar P. Hadcock, Farnam J. Bowen, and Leonard C. Davenport. This Board elected Dewitt C. West, President, and Charles P. Leonard, Vice-President. Frederick S. Easton was named cashier.

The Black River National Bank opened for the transaction of business on July 1, 1879, in the quarters which it still occupies. The building had housed temporary banking institutions in which some of the incorporators had been interested. In 1921 the property was purchased by the Bank and extensive alterations were made at that time.

The following Lowville residents have served as president of The Black River National Bank:

DeWitt C. West.....	May 31, 1879–August 27, 1880
Charles P. Leonard.....	September 30, 1880–June 4, 1904
Frederick S. Easton.....	June 29, 1904–January 8, 1929
Jay S. Bowen.....	January 8, 1929–February 2, 1931
Dewitt C. West.....	February 2, 1931–January 10, 1933
Jay S. Bowen.....	January 10, 1933–March 12, 1938
Fay L. Parker.....	March 24, 1938–March 31, 1950
G. Byron Bowen.....	April 1, 1950–

During the past seventy-five years the bank has experienced a steady and consistent growth which has brought the total assets of the institution to something over four million dollars. A special interest department, a trust department and loan services are available to the people of Lowville and Lewis County.

The present Board of Directors includes—Fay L. Parker, F. B. Parker, N. E. Merrell, L. M. Touissaint, R. E. Lormore, H. A. Payne,

## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE

S. L. Meda, G. A. Burdick, G. Byron Bowen, and the officers are G. Byron Bowen, President; N. E. Merrell, Vice-President; J. M. Russum, Vice-President and Cashier; Howard P. Steiner, Assistant Cashier. These men take pride in the fact that the Black River National Bank is distinctly a local institution, two of the directors being of the third generation to serve. The Board's aim is to continue a friendly banking service in the tradition of the founders' of the bank.

## Lewis County Trust Company

ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1863, the First National Bank of Lowville, New York, was organized by William McCulloch, Garrit Bostwick, Hezekiah Dickerman, William C. LeFevre and Ashley Davenport, with paid in capital of \$50,000. The first officers were Hezekiah Dickerman as president and William McCulloch as cashier. The bank building was the old McCulloch Block, now occupied by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation as an office.

On July 31, 1920, the First National Bank was voluntarily liquidated and succeeded by the Lewis County Trust Company, and on August 2, 1920, the capital was increased to \$200,000; a new banking building was erected in 1921, and is the present site of this institution.

The presidents of the two institutions have been as follows:

Hezekiah Dickerman .....	1863-1871
Ashley Davenport .....	1872-1874
Charles D. Boshart .....	1875-1903
Frederick McCulloch .....	1903-1917
C. Fred Boshart .....	1917-1928
William J. Milligan .....	1929-1943
B. Brayton Johnson .....	1943-
	until June 1, 1954

Mr. Johnson, who started as a clerk in the original bank on May 1, 1904, completed fifty years continuous service on April 30, 1954; he is retiring as president as of June 1st, and has been elected chairman of the Board, effective as of that date. Stuart S. TenEyck has been elected to succeed Mr. Johnson as president.

The present resources of the bank amount to approximately \$4,500,000.

At present the bank has active commercial, interest and Christmas Club departments, and is governed by the following directors: B. Brayton Johnson, Stuart S. TenEyck, Raymond S. Richardson, Dewitt C. LeFevre, Russell W. Harris, Lawton Williams, Dwight N. Dudo, Miller B. Moran and Alson D. Weller; with the following officers: Chairman of the Board, B. Brayton Johnson; President, Stuart S. TenEyck; Vice-President, Dewitt C. LeFevre; Vice-President, Raymond S. Richardson; Secretary and Treasurer, Elmer A. Zehr; Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, Leonard D. Pelton; Trust Officer, Elmer A. Zehr; Assistant Trust Officer, Catherine Yuhaus.



## Lowville Cold Storage

THE LOWVILLE COLD STORAGE was built in the year 1900, by Brayton B. and Leon S. Miller. The plant, under the firm name of B. B. Miller & Son, was one of the first cold storages in Northern New York and the largest. In 1901, a half interest was sold to Rufus J. and S. Brown Richardson, whose firm name was R. J. Richardson & Co. This plant was enlarged three times, and when completed, was said to be the largest cheese cold storage plant in the world. It was originally used as an assembly plant, to which cheese from the factories in the north country shipped their cheese weekly. Here these cheese were paraffined, after which they were re-shipped or retained in storage. Capacity of the present plant is approximately 7,000,000 pounds, and about fifty men are employed.

At one time, cheese was processed and packaged in three and five pound boxes.

The storage is equipped to cure cheese. In fact, the famous "Coon Cheese," known to all Northern New Yorkers, are cured here.

After thirty years under the joint management of S. Brown Richardson and Leon S. Miller, the plant was sold in 1928 to Kraft Foods Co., and has been under their management since that time.

## Asbestos Burial Casket Co., Inc.

THE ASBESTOS BURIAL CASKET CO., INC., has been making high grade caskets in Lowville since the company was formed in 1885. Its first factory was located on the south side of Valley Street (Rural Avenue) and was purchased from Eldred & Davis in October, 1885. The first caskets manufactured were made under a patent issued to Dr. J. C. House, who was also the first secretary of the company and in whose office the early meetings were held. These early caskets were made of wood, but before the cloth covering was glued on, a mixture of asphalt and asbestos was applied to the shell which was intended to waterproof the casket. Sometime later a newspaper clipping, now in the company files, humorously referred to the process as one attempting to keep out "fire, water, and the devil." The company thus obtained its name and though the name has lasted, the process did not prove successful and was soon abandoned.

The company continued to manufacture caskets, however, and in May, 1887, purchased the Ladette A. Bostwick property and factory on Trinity Avenue where the present factory now stands. In 1891, the factory employed twenty-two, including three women, and caskets were sold throughout New York and New England.

In the winter of 1918, a fire destroyed a large portion of the Bostwick factory and erection of the present concrete building was begun. In 1921 the company produced its first hardwood finished casket which now represents about 65% of the factory unit production. The factory presently employs about fifty people and a sales force of six men cover New York and New England, and the eastern seaboard as far south as North Carolina. "The ABC Line" includes caskets of cypress, oak, willow and native Adirondack birch and cherry.

The first officers of the company in 1885 were: W. R. Fitch, President; F. S. Easton, Vice-President; J. C. House, Secretary; A. S. Stoddard, Treasurer; and these officers together with J. T. Campbell and C. D. Manville comprised the first Board of Directors. At the annual meeting in 1887, the following were elected directors: V. L. Waters, W. H. Smith, R. J. Richardson, J. T. Campbell, C. R. Blodgett, J. C. House, F. C. Doig, W. R. Fitch, A. S. Stoddard, G. W. Fowler. Directors for the year 1954 are: R. S. Richardson, G. B. Bowen, G. W. Fowler, W. R. Galloway, B. B. Johnson, E. E. Fowler, J. Yale Moore. The officers for 1954 are: R. S. Richardson, President; G. B. Bowen, Vice-President; G. W. Fowler, Treasurer and General Manager; L. D. Fowler, Jr., Secretary.

## Payne-Jones, Inc.

PAYNE-JONES, INC., located on Bostwick Street, was originally started in Monmouth Junction, New Jersey, in 1931, and moved to Lowville in September, 1935, when it became financially associated with The J. P. Lewis Co. and Latex Fiber Ind. in Beaver Falls, New York.

The product, which is an artificial leather, coated and embossed in many colors and designs simulating leather, is used mostly for covers of loose-leaf books such as catalogues, diaries, check books and all types of blank books. It is also used to some extent in novelties and other items where leather is used.

The product is widely distributed throughout the United States, Canada and some European countries.

Payne-Jones has an average of about fifty-two employees.

## Lowville Veneer Works

THE JOHN BACON, INC., a domestic corporation with principal office at Gasport, New York, purchased a plant site on South State Street, November 8, 1932.

The large fruit basket was the principal product. These fruit baskets were shipped by truck to the fruit growing areas. The factory was run until early 1949.

The Lowville Veneer Works started operation in March, 1950, in the manufacture of veneer. Most of its production is shipped to the middle west for use in school, theater, and stadium furniture.

The raw materials used in this mill are birch logs. The logs are first conditioned for cutting in large soaking vats in the yard. Then they are brought into the mill and peeled. The veneer is cut by a rotary lathe, placed in sheets on the table, sized, and clipped to proper dimensions. Each piece is then put through the drying operation after which it is sorted for quality, tied in bundles, and stored in the warehouse for shipment.

The Lowville Veneer Works regularly employs approximately forty-eight workers.

## Lowville Producers Dairy Cooperative, Inc.

On September 10, 1936, the Secretary of State of New York issued a perpetual Certificate of Incorporation to the Lowville Producers Dairy Cooperative, Inc., for the purpose of marketing and/or selling agricultural products of its members. The certificate was signed by Mr. George A. Fitch, the first president of the organization. The officers and directors of the corporation were as follows:

President, George A. Fitch; Vice-President, Fred Kelly; Secretary, John O'Leary; Treasurer, Leland Strader; Directors, Fred C. O'Brien, Stanley W. Percoski, Arthur W. Woolschlager, Maynard Foote, John B. Schwartzentruber.

In going over the records of the organization it was learned that in November, 1936, Mr. Fitch and Mr. O'Leary were authorized by the board of directors to go to New York City and make arrangements for the purchase of the milk plant on Railroad Street in Lowville from Sheffield Farms, Inc.

During the first year in which Certificates of Interest were issued to plant patrons the total volume of milk handled was 46,373,431 pounds from 294 producers. Last fiscal year, 1952-53, the plant handled 80,622,049 pounds from 329 producers.

Construction of the new milk plant on Utica Boulevard was started in the fall of 1947 during the term of office of President L. Ray McCue. Construction was completed and milk handling operations were started in the new building in March, 1949. Expenditures for land, plant and equipment amounted to \$417,131.09. In addition to the milk plant building the cooperative's cheese plant on Bostwick Street in this village is carried on the corporation's books at a value of around \$33,000 but could not be duplicated today for a much higher figure.

The total amount of money returned to producers as a result of payment of Certificates of Interest is \$776,281.73. All outstanding Certificates to date total \$339,182.76 or approximately \$50,000 less than the amount invested in land, plant and equipment. The amount of money paid to producers for pounds of milk delivered from May, 1949 to May, 1954, is \$16,236,395.78.

The present officers and directors are as follows: President, Clarence Bolliver; Vice-President, Robert G. Beyer; Secretary, Varner M. Lyman; Treasurer, James M. Kelly; Assistant Treasurer, Howard Farney; Directors, Alson D. Weller, Sheldon Merriam, Arthur Birch-enough, Stanley Percoski.









